



**Work hard, play hard –
Developing assessment practices to support
children’s key competences in the
infant classes of primary school.**

Aim of presentation



- provide an overview of Aistear
- highlight the learning benefits of child-led play in children's holistic development
- explore assessment practices that support children's key competences in infant classes

Aistear's components



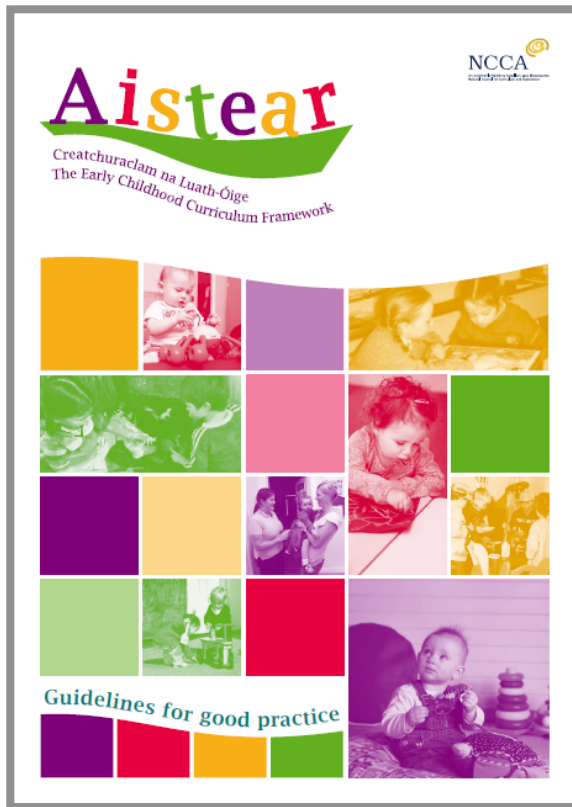
Principles

Themes

Guidelines
for good
practice



Guidelines for good practice



Aistear's guidelines describe good practice in:

- building **partnerships between parents and practitioners**
- learning and developing through **interactions**
- learning and developing through **play**
- supporting learning and development through **assessment**



Structure of play session

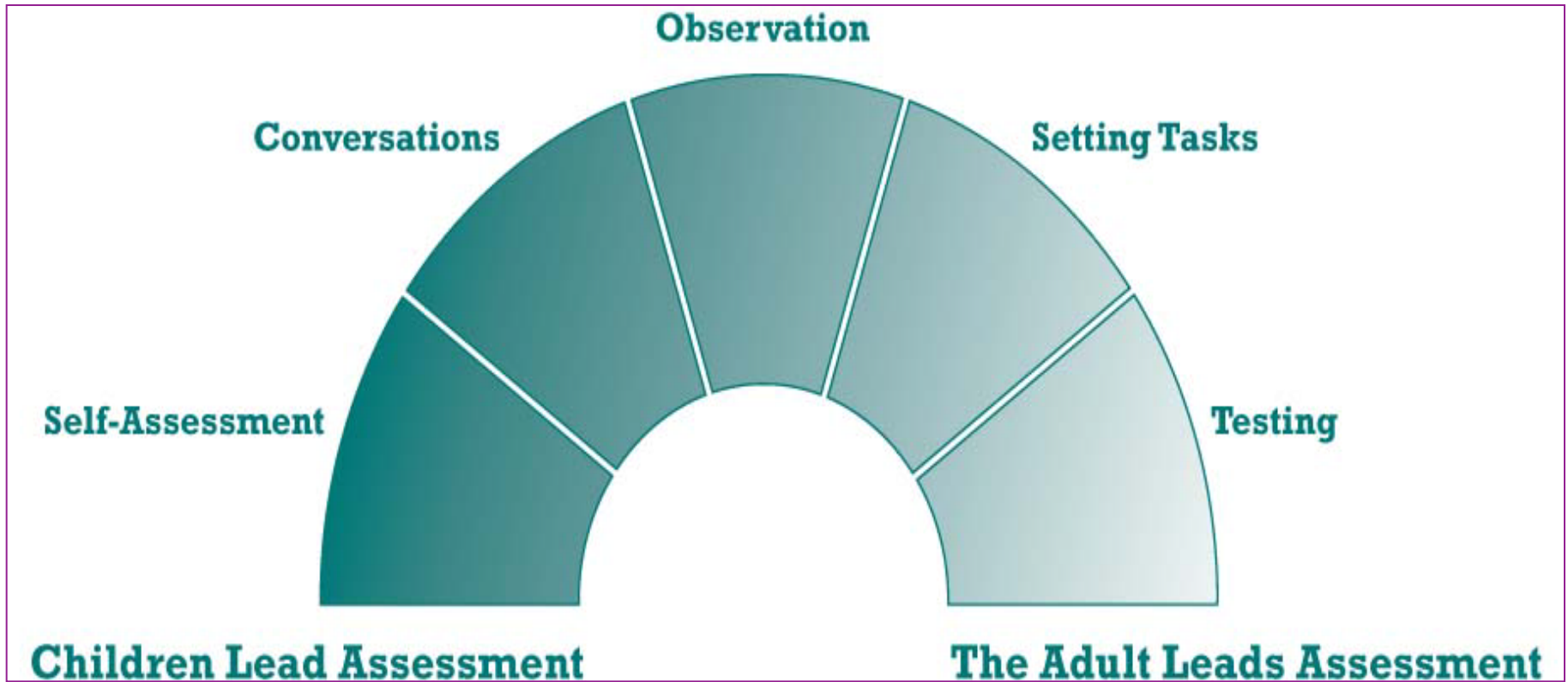
- *Aistear* recommends working towards an hour of **child-led play** every day in infant classrooms.
- Suggested structure for each play session:
 - ✓ Plan (5 minutes)
 - ✓ Play (40-45 minutes)
 - ✓ Tidy Up (5-10 minutes)
 - ✓ Review (5-10 minutes)

Interaction strategies



(Aistear, Guidelines, Table 2, p.28)

Assessment methods



(Aistear, Guidelines, p.80)

Assessment of key competences

- **Dispositions** *e.g. curiosity, concentration, perseverance, resilience*
- **Skills** *e.g. writing, cutting, problem-solving*
- **Attitudes and values** *e.g. respect for others attitude to learning*
- **Knowledge and understanding** *e.g. classifying objects, relationship between letters and sounds, people in their community*

Assessment practices

- Stories
- A play diary
- Checklists
- Samples of children's work
- Observation notes
- Photographs
- Audio and video clips

The form is titled 'Hairdressers' and 'Appointments'. It features a grid with three columns: 'Customer name', 'Stylist name', and 'Hair style'. The first row is filled with a customer name 'Amber', a stylist name 'Amber', and a drawing of a red ponytail. The second row has a customer name 'Mason', a stylist name 'Amber', and a drawing of a yellow afro. The third row has a customer name 'Katie', a stylist name 'Amber', and a drawing of a black afro. The remaining rows are empty.

Customer name	Stylist name	Hair style
Amber	Amber	
Mason	Amber	
Katie	Amber	

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Conclusion

“The playing adult steps sideward into another reality; **the playing child advances forward to new stages of mastery.**”

Erik Erikson

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. **Play is really the work of childhood.**”

Fred Rogers

