

What is the aim of this CPD?

The aim of *Aistear* & Play CPD is to support practitioners' understanding and use of *Aistear* and the *Aistear Síolta* Practice Guide in order to improve the quality of early childhood curriculum for children from birth to six years. Through workshops and on-site support, practitioners will be supported to understand and apply *Aistear*'s principles, themes, aims, learning goals and guidelines on play.

Practitioners will also become more familiar with the connections between *Síolta* and *Aistear*. The CPD aims to support practitioners to gain the knowledge and skills required to begin to develop their own emergent and inquiry-based curriculum informed by *Aistear*.

What is the criteria for applying for the programme?

Applications will be reviewed by the National *Síolta Aistear* Implementation office and places will be allocated considering criteria including;

- Completion of the workshop '*Síolta, Aistear & the Practice Guide: An introduction*' (delivered between 2017-2019) or '*An introduction to Síolta, Aistear and the Practice Guide*' (revised workshop in place from January 2020). These workshops are provided by *Síolta Aistear* Mentors in specific organisations including CCC's, NVCO's and ABCs. **Either of these workshops is sufficient for you to meet the criteria.** If you have not attended this workshop previously and are offered a place on the training you MUST complete this workshop before *Aistear* and Play, Workshop 1. We will ensure that every participant has an opportunity to attend the introductory workshop. If you attended the workshop in the past you should have received a purple NSAI certificate of attendance.
- Preference to settings who sign up on a whole centre/whole team basis or at least 70% of the team who are working directly with children
- Preference to settings who have received limited or no quality supports to date (for example from Better Start or others). Settings who have completed the *Síolta* QAP and have an active validation or who have received Better Start QDS support in the last three years will not be eligible to apply.
- Settings where a Tusla inspection has made a recommendation which this training may support you to meet.

- Settings where a DES Early Years Education Inspection has recommended engagement with supports related to *Aistear* and/or curriculum development.
- Settings where the manager or pedagogical leader will be in attendance and will take a leadership role in supporting the application of learning in practice.
- Settings who have the capacity and willingness to engage and participate in all workshops and in two on-site support sessions over the course of the programme
- Settings who agree to comply with evaluation requirements of the programme (submitting pre and post photographs of the learning environment, participant evaluation of workshops and on site supports and possible observation visits).

How do I apply?

Expressions of Interest can be completed through Survey Monkey which you can access [HERE](#). The closing date to submit your interest is midnight on **Wednesday, 8th of January***.

This application will require some detail on your setting and information on your potential suitability for this CPD. You will be required to provide information such as service details (including DCYA number), preferred location of training, staff participation, recent Tusla and DES inspection information and previous quality supports, if applicable.

Please direct any queries to NSAI@betterstart.ie

***Please be advised that late applications will not be accepted.**