

NSAI *Aistear* & Play CPD-Information for potential participants

What is the NSAI *Aistear* & Play CPD?

The *Aistear* & Play CPD is part of the National *Síolta Aistear* Initiative (NSAI) a collaboration between DCYA, DES, Better Start & NCCA. The purpose of the NSAI is to support the implementation of our two National Frameworks-*Síolta* and *Aistear*. From March 2019, *Aistear* & Play CPD is being delivered in partnership with Better Start National Early Years Quality Development. '*Aistear* and Play' consists of 5 individual workshops (2 and a half hours each) and two onsite support visits with an Early Years Mentor to support you to apply the learning from the training within your setting.

What is the time commitment involved in the programme?

It is expected that participants will attend all 5 workshops (12.5 hours in total) and participate in the two on-site support visits (during working hours-length of time agreed with individual settings based on size, number of staff etc.). You will also have some practice tasks to work on which you will begin at the end of each workshop and continue to progress within your setting before the onsite support visit.

National CPD Funding:

Approval has been granted to fund CPD payments to early learning and care practitioners who complete the *Aistear* & Play CPD. This is an extension of the initial pilot payments scheme which began in 2018 for Hanen and Lámh training programmes. A bursary of €13 per hour for up to 12.5 hours will be paid to services for each staff member who completes this training.

What is the aim of this CPD?

The aim of the CPD is to support practitioners' understanding and use of *Aistear* and the *Aistear Síolta* Practice Guide to improve the quality of early childhood curriculum for children from birth to six years. Through workshops and on-site support, practitioners will be helped to better 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 help practitioners 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 by *Síolta Aistear* Mentors from CCC's, NVCO's and ABC's) or willingness to attend this prior to beginning *Aistear & Play*.
- Preference to settings who sign up on a whole centre/whole team basis.
- Preference to settings who have received no or limited quality supports to date (for example from Better Start or others).
- Where a Tusla inspection has made a recommendation which this training may support you to meet.
- Where a DES EYEI inspection has recommended engagement with supports related to *Aistear* and/or curriculum development.
- Settings where the pedagogical leader will be in attendance and will take a leadership role in supporting 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 (participant evaluation of workshops and on site supports and possible observation visits).

Aistear & Play, Round 1 2019

The *Aistear & Play* CPD will be available to a **limited** number of settings in the following locations.

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| Dublin City | Waterford | Mayo/Roscommon | Cork City |
| Fingal | Carlow/Kilkenny | Donegal | Cork County |
| Dun Laoghaire | Tipperary | Sligo | Cavan |
| /Rathdown | Longford | Clare | Meath/Westmeath |
| South Dublin | Offaly/Laois | Limerick | Monaghan |
| Wicklow | Galway | Kerry | Louth |
| Kildare | | | |

How do I apply? Please fill out the expression of interest form and email it to NSAI@betterstart.ie by **Thursday 28th February 2019**.