We felt this experience went very well and the children were talking about it for days afterwards, especially about being able to handle real tools.

The children learned new vocabulary like drill, drill bits, screw-driver, high visibility jackets, protective clothing, safety precautions.

The experience gave children the opportunity to interact with members of the local community and to speak out in a large group.

Learning Experience: A visit from the builders

Setting: Cahir Bears Childcare Centre, Cahir, Co. Tipperary
Setting type: Full and part-time daycare
Age group: Young children
Theme: Exploring and Thinking
Aim 1: Children will learn about and make sense of the world around them.

One morning in pre-school we observed the children at play and noticed that they played for a long time with construction toys hammering, sawing, screwing and fixing the chairs and tables. They showed a great interest in this and we decided to follow it up by inviting two of the local construction workers into our pre-school room for show and tell time. The children were familiar with Dec and Ger who come in occasionally to put up a shelf or to fix a toilet.

The two builders brought in their construction tools like drills, drill bits, screwdrivers, spirit levels and saws and talked to the children about them and explained the safety precautions needed when using them. They also showed the children the protective clothing that needs to be worn when operating them like goggles, hard hats, high visibility jackets and ear muffs.

This learning experience is an example of how one service supports one of the learning goals in Aistear’s theme of Exploring and Thinking.

Drilling

The play leader’s reflections

We felt this experience went very well and the children were talking about it for days afterwards, especially about being able to handle real tools.

The children learned new vocabulary like drill, drill bits, screw-driver, high visibility jackets, protective clothing, safety precautions.

The experience gave children the opportunity to interact with members of the local community and to speak out in a large group.
Ger and Dec even showed the children the special covers they have for their mobile phones in case they drop them on the floor or let them fall in a bucket of water!

The children explored the equipment and asked lots of interesting and relevant questions like why you need to wear the different safety items. They also inquired about the types of jobs the different tools were used for.

We will have lots of capable helpers available the next time the builders visit the service to complete a job!

This experience also links to:
- **Identity and Belonging**, Aim 2, Learning goal 6
- **Communicating**, Aim 2, Learning goal 1

**Ideas to extend the children’s learning**

- Add note-books, pencils, graph paper, a measuring tape, hard hats, high visibility jackets, pieces of wood, cardboard boxes to the outdoor area.
- Add pictures of real buildings to the construction area to give children ideas for building. Add paper and pencils for design work.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes related to building like *London Bridge is Falling Down*, *Johnny Hammering* or *Noisy Nails*.