Aistear describes children’s learning and development using four themes. Exploring and Thinking is one of these themes.

Aistear’s theme of Exploring and Thinking is about children making sense of the things, places and people in their world. (See pages 43-52 for the full text on Exploring and Thinking.)

**Learning goals**

In partnership with the adult, children will
1. explore their environment and use new physical skills
2. demonstrate a growing understanding of themselves and others
3. develop an understanding of change as part of their lives
4. learn about the natural environment and their own responsibility as carers
5. develop a sense of time, shape, space, and place
6. understand concepts such as matching, sorting, size, height, capacity, and money.

**Aim 1**
Children will make sense of the world around them.

**Aim 2**
Children will use skills and strategies for learning about their world.

**Aim 3**
Children will explore ideas and objects using symbols.

**Aim 4**
Children will develop positive learning dispositions.

**Learning goals**

In partnership with the adult, children will
1. make connections between new learning and what they already know
2. gather and use information from different sources
3. explore and develop working theories about how the world works
4. demonstrate their ability to reason, negotiate and think logically
5. collaborate with others to share interests and to solve problems
6. use their creativity and imagination to solve problems.

**Working together**

- Risk-taking
- Challenging
- Predicting
- Questioning
- Investigating
- Curiosity
- Problem-solving
- Perseverance

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**Aistear Toolkit**

The online Aistear Toolkit provides a range of resources including video clips, tip sheets, information sheets, and podcasts to help you use Aistear in your setting. You can find the Toolkit at [www.ncca.ie/aisteartoolkit](http://www.ncca.ie/aisteartoolkit)