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| **Topic: Celebrating Language Diversity (Birth – 6 years)**  |
| Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* highlight the importance of reflecting children’s culture and identity in the early childhood setting. One way to do this is by recognising and celebrating language diversity. In this short CPD session, you will hear the perspectives of a variety of early years educators on how they create an environment that reflects the languages of all the children and adults in the setting.  |
| ***Key connections**** *Aistear’s* theme of [Communicating](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/curriculum-foundations/aistear-and-siolta-documents/communicating.pdf)
* *Síolta’s* Standard of [Identity and Belonging](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/curriculum-foundations/aistear-and-siolta-documents/14-identity-and-belonging.pdf)
 | **Celebrating language diversity within the early childhood setting is one way to ensure families feel welcome, valued, respected and supported.** |
|  | Checkmark |
| Eye | Valuing children’s home language is an important aspect of respecting their Identity and Belonging. [In this six-minute video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/working-with-parents-to-celebrate-childrens-home-languages-birth-6-years-.html), you will hear how one early years educator works closely with parents to ensure home languages are valued and celebrated within the early childhood setting.  |  |
| Eye | [In this seven-minute video,](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/supporting-and-including-children-with-an-additional-language-3-6-years-.html) you hear one early years educator share her experience of engaging with parents to help her to promote one child’s learning and development. She explains how her previous experience of working with children who have English as an additional language has influenced her work as an early years educator.  |  |
| Eye | Parents are our greatest resource when celebrating children’s diverse languages. [In this next 4 minute video,](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/celebrating-language-diversity-birth-6-years-.html) you hear the perspective of a parent who shares her experience of how her child’s early childhood setting meaningfully engaged with her to celebrate the language diversity that her child experienced on a daily basis.  |  |
| Eye | Celebrating language diversity within the early childhood setting is one way to ensure families feel welcome, valued, respected and supported. [This short one minute video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/valuing-and-supporting-childrens-home-languages-birth-6-years-.html) highlights one very practical way this could be done.  |  |
| Document | While celebrating language diversity within your setting, it is important to be cognisant of how to support children who are learning more than one language. [This resource](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/supporting-your-child-to-become-bilingual.pdf) provides some helpful strategies to do this.  |  |
| Document | It is important that celebrating language diversity is meaningful within your setting and this can be done by working with parents to celebrate and explore the languages spoken at home. As one of our two official languages, it is important that children in English-medium settings have opportunities to learn Irish from an early age. Listening to and speaking Irish words supports children’s sense of identity as Irish citizens, as well as contributing to their language development. [This resource](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/introducing-irish-to-children-in-english-medium-settings-3-6-years-.pdf) might support you to do this in your setting. These book lists provide lots of ideas of books that could be used in your setting to support and promote inclusive practice. [Booklists for babies](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/inclusive-picture-books-birth-18-months-.pdf)[Booklists for toddlers](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/inclusive-picture-books-1-3-years-.pdf)[Booklists for young children](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/inclusive-picture-books-2-5-6-years-.pdf) |  |
| **Pencil outline** | Supporting and promoting language development is threaded through the Interactions self-evaluation tool. You might like to take some time to review this. [Self -evaluation tool for babies and toddlers is available here.](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/self-evaluation-tools/self-evaluation-tool-nurturing-and-extending-birth-3-years-.pdf) [Self-evaluation tool for young children is available here.](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/self-evaluation-tools/self-evaluation-tool-nurturing-and-extending-3-6-years-.pdf)  |  |

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|  | **My key reflections having viewed/read the above materials** **Prompts for Reflection**: What is working well for you in this area? What are the challenges you have experienced in this area? What will you do differently in the future? |
| Key |  |
|  | **An action I can take . . .****Prompts for Reflection**: Outline the changes you plan to make to your practice. How will these changes impact positively on children’s learning and development? Think about the resources and supports you will need. What aspects of this work would you like to prioritise and focus on in the coming weeks? |
| Lightbulb and pencil | Link to the Practice Guide’s [Aistear Síolta Action Planning Template](http://aistearsiolta.ie/en/Introduction/Action-planning-tool-for-Siolta-and-Aistear/Action-planning-tool-for-Siolta-and-Aistear.pdf)  |
| All of the above resources and many more are available on the *Aistear Síolta Practice Guide* website at [www.aistearsiolta.ie](http://www.aistearsiolta.ie) Thank you for visiting and using the Practice Guide. |
| Additional Support Materials |
| Cycle with people with solid fill | You might be interested in these additional support materials from National *Síolta* *Aistear* Initiative Partners. Insights – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (www.gov.ie)[Barnardos. (2020). Guidance for Childminders: Supporting Language Development.](https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/179) [Barnardos. (2013). Early Speech and Language Matters: Enriching the communication environment and language development in early childhood.](https://shop.barnardos.ie/products/earlyspeechandlanguagemattersenrichingthecommunicationenvironmentandlanguagedevelopmentinearlychildhood) [Barnardos. (2015). ChildLinks Issue 1: Language Development in the Early Years.](https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/75)  |