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| **Topic: Observing, documenting and planning for learning and development** |
| Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* highlight the importance of creating rich pictures of babies, toddlers and young children as competent and confident learners. This can be done by observing and documenting children’s learning. This demonstrates children’s competence and their achievements and progress in terms of dispositions, skills, attitudes and values, and knowledge and understanding. It also makes this learning visible to educators, children, parents and other stakeholders. In doing this, documentation provides important information to help educators plan for children’s further learning and development. This CPD will help you to reflect on and develop your own practice in observing, documenting and planning for learning and development.  |
| ***Key connections**** *Aistear’s* theme of [Communicating](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/curriculum-foundations/aistear-and-siolta-documents/communicating.pdf)
* *Síolta’s* Standard of [Curriculum](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/aistear-and-siolta-documents/7-curriculum.pdf)
 | **Early years educators use a variety of methods to gather information that enables them to document and plan for children’s learning and development.** |
|  | Checkmark |
| Document | You might like to being by reading [this document](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/overview/planning-and-assessing-using-aistear-s-themes1.pdf)  which gives an overview of the Planning and Assessing pillar on the *Aistear* *Síolta* Practice Guide. This pillar has a range of resources to help you in observing, documenting and planning for learning and development in your setting.  |  |
| Document | Documentation helps show how you plan for and support babies’, toddlers’ and young children’s learning and development. It makes children’s learning visible and is an important part of the planning and assessment process. [This document](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/resources-for-sharing/documenting-children-s-learning-and-development-birth-6-years-.pdf) will support you to document learning and development in your setting.  |  |
| Document | This documentation, along with other methods of gathering information, takes account of children’s current interests and inquiries and will help you to plan for children’s learning and development. There is more information on how to use this information for the purposes of planning and assessing learning and development in this [information booklet.](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/resources-for-sharing/information-booklet-planning-and-assessing.pdf)   |  |
| Eye | *Aistear* and *Síolta* note the importance of building rich pictures of children’s learning and development. [This three-minute video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/using-observations-to-build-a-rich-picture-of-childrens-learning-and-development-birth-6-years-.html) outlines how one services uses observations to do this.  |  |
| Eye | Observing, documenting and planning for learning and development is important for all age groups. [In this three-minute video,](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/planning-and-assessing-using-aistear-s-themes-birth-3years-1.html) we hear from one early years educator about her approach to this with babies.  |  |
| Eye | [This early years educator](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/documenting-children-s-learning-and-development.html) goes into some detail on the variety of methods that she uses in her everyday practice for observing, documenting and planning the curriculum for the children she works with.  |  |
| Eye | [In this five-minute video,](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/planning-and-implementing-an-emergent-and-inquiry-based-curriculum-birth-6-years-.html) we hear from another early years educator on how she gathers information about the children and their interests and how she uses this information both to plan for and to build her curriculum.  |  |
| **Pencil outline** | Finally, [this self-evaluation tool](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/self-evaluation-tools/self-evaluation-tool-planning-and-assessing-birth-6-years-.pdf) will help you to reflect on your own practice in observing, documenting and planning for children’s learning and development.  |  |

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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. [*Aistear* Supporting Learning and Development through Assessment](https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/2a91bac0-e375-481f-aaf3-43209847ec82/Learning-and-Assessment_EN.pdf)Insights – Assessment (www.gov.ie) |