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| **Topic: Supporting Language Development (Birth – 6 years)**  |
| Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* highlight the importance of supporting language development with babies, toddlers and young children. Engaging interactions along with attuned and responsive educators supports language development. In this short CPD session, you will learn about some strategies for supporting and promoting language development with children from birth – six years.  |
| ***Key connections**** *Aistear’s* theme of [Communicating](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/aistear/communicating.pdf)
* *Síolta’s* Standard of [Interactions](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/s-olta/5-interactions.pdf)
 | **Engaging interactions along with attuned and responsive educators supports language development** |
|  | Checkmark |
| Document | The quality of interactions between educators and babies and toddlers is important in developing non-verbal and verbal language skills. [This document](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/enhancing-language-0-3_.pdf) gives some very practical ideas and strategies on how to promote language development with babies and toddlers. From three to six years, children rapidly increase the number of words they use and change how they use language to communicate and to learn. A child turning three years may have a few hundred words and by the time he/she is six years, may have many thousand words. [This document](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/enhancing-language-3-6-years-.pdf) gives some very practical ideas and strategies on how to promote language development with young children.  |  |
| Document | *Aistear’s* theme of Communicating highlights the importance of children having opportunities to become proficient users of at least one language and to have an awareness and appreciation of other languages. [This resource may support you with children who are bi-lingual in your setting.](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/supporting-your-child-to-become-bilingual.pdf) 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 also. [This resource may support you to do this in practice](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/introducing-irish-to-children-in-english-medium-settings-3-6-years-.pdf).  |  |
| Eye | Books are a great way to support language learning and development. [Watch this six-minute video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/creating-and-using-the-learning-environment/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/enjoying-books-in-a-variety-of-spaces.html) on how books can be enjoyed in a wide variety of spaces, both indoors and outdoors.  |  |
| Document | These picture book lists provide lots of ideas of books that could be used in your setting to support language learning and development. [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. [Enjoying books with your baby](https://ncca.ie/media/5615/enjoying-books-with-your-baby_ef-8.pdf)[Enjoying books with your toddler](https://ncca.ie/media/5617/enjoying-books-with-your-toddler_ef7.pdf)[Enjoying books with your young child](https://ncca.ie/media/5619/enjoying-books-with-young-children_ef-7.pdf)Insights – Developing Children’s Literacy Skills (www.gov.ie) |