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| **Topic: Using and implementing the Key Person Approach (Birth – 6 years)**  |
| Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* highlight the importance of consistent and stable relationships in children’s lives to support their learning and development. A Key Person approach can be used to help children, and their families, to form secure attachments and build close relationships within the early childhood setting. In this short CPD session, you will learn more about both the benefits of and the practicalities of implementing the Key Person approach.  |
| ***Key connections**** *Aistear’s* theme of [Well-being](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/aistear/well-being.pdf)
* *Síolta* standard of [Interactions](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/s-olta/5-interactions.pdf)
 | **The Key Person is primarily responsible for creating a close relationship with the baby, toddler or young child and his/her family** |
|  | Checkmark |
| Document | In these early years children learn through loving, trusting and respectful relationships. One way of supporting this is my implementing the Key Person approach. [This document](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/resources-for-sharing/using-a-key-person-approach.pdf) gives a good overview of the benefits of using a Key Person approach and highlights some considerations to be taken into account when organising this approach. |  |
| Eye | In this  [two-minute video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/using-the-key-person-approach.html), you will hear how one setting implements the Key Person approach across the entire setting. You will hear the perspectives of a room leader, setting manager and the owner of the setting.  |  |
| Document | One of the responsibilities of the Key Person is to support quality interactions with their key children. [This document](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/supporting-quality-interactions-through-everyday-care-routines.html) gives examples of how to support quality interactions through everyday care routines.  |  |
| Eye | [In this two-minute video,](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/building-close-relationships-with-families.html) you will hear how one setting utilises the Key Person approach to build close relationships with families.  |  |
| Eye | [This four-minute video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/approaches-to-communicating-with-parents-and-families-birth-6-years.html) gives some ideas and strategies for how the Key Person might communicate with parents and families.  |  |
| **Pencil outline** | Finally, using element 1 of the self-evaluation tool, you might like to take some time to reflect on your own practice in building relationships in your setting. [The self-evaluation tool for babies and toddlers is here.](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/nurturing-and-extending-interactions/self-evaluation-tools/self-evaluation-tool-nurturing-and-extending-birth-3-years-.pdf) [The self-evaluation tool for young children in 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. [Barnardos -The Key Person Approach: Positive Relationships with Children in the Early Years](https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.13085/188) |