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| **Topic: Celebrating children’s home cultures** |
| Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* emphasis the benefits of supporting families to feel, welcome, valued and respected. This includes respecting and valuing cultural diversity and finding ways to celebrate different cultures with children and their families. In this short CPD session, you will you hear the perspectives of a variety of early years educators on how they celebrate children’s home cultures in their service. |
| ***Key connections**** *Aistear’s* theme of [Identity and Belonging](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/aistear-and-siolta-documents/identity-and-belonging.pdf)
* *Síolta* Standard of [Identity and Belonging](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/curriculum-foundations/aistear-and-siolta-documents/14-identity-and-belonging.pdf)
 | **Supporting families to feel, welcome, valued and respected includes respecting and valuing cultural diversity.** |
|  | Checkmark |
| Eye | Accepting and valuing children’s families and communities is an important aspect of partnership. [In the three-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), you learn of how one parent was made to feel welcome, valued and respected and what this meant to his family.  |  |
| Eye | [This three-minute](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/respecting-and-valuing-cultural-diversity-birth-6-years-.html) video extends the idea of acceptance and you hear the perspective on one parent on the benefits of respecting and valuing cultural diversity.  |  |
| Eye | Identity and Belonging is about children developing a positive sense of who they are and feeling that they are valued and respected as part of a family and community. [Dr. Wendy Lee](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/planning-and-assessing-using-aistears-themes/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/what-is-cultural-pedagogy.html) talks about what a cultural pedagogy is and how this supports children’s identity and belonging.  |  |
| Eye | The learning environment influences what and how children learn. [This early years educator](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/creating-and-using-the-learning-environment/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/creating-a-learning-environment-that-promotes-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-birth-6-years-.html) talks about the importance of creating a learning environment that values inclusion and shares some of the strategies she uses to do this. |  |
| Eye | It is important to actively encourage parents and extended family to become involved in the setting in different ways and at a pace that suits them. [This short video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/celebrating-cultural-diversity-birth-6-years-.html) highlights how one service provides opportunities for parents to be involved in the setting and the benefits that this brings to the children and their families.  |  |
| **Pencil outline** | Finally, [using element 6 of the self-evaluation tool](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/self-evaluation-tools-/self-evaluation-tool-building-partnerships-with-parents.pdf#page=17), you might like to take some time to evaluate your own practice in including parents in your setting.  |  |

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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)  |
| 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) |
| 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. |