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| **Topic: Communicating with parents and families** |
| Both *Aistear* and *Síolta* highlight the important role parents and families play in children’s lives. This short CPD session will provide ideas and suggestions to help you to build partnerships with parents and families and give you suggestions and ideas on how to involve them in the early childhood setting. |
| ***Key connections**** *Aistear’s* theme of [Communicating](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/curriculum-foundations/aistear-and-siolta-documents/communicating.pdf)
* *Síolta* Standard of [Parents and Families](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/curriculum-foundations/aistear-and-siolta-documents/3-parents-and-families.pdf)
 | **Parents and families are the most important people in their children’s early lives** |
|  | Checkmark |
| Document | Building Partnerships with Parents is one of the pillars in the Aistear Síolta Practice Guide. [This short document](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/overview/pillar-overview-building-partnerships-with-parents1.pdf) is helpful in understanding why partnerships with parents and families are important. |  |
| Eye | [This eight-minute video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/dr-margy-whalley-learning-to-work-in-partnership-with-parents-1.html) from Dr. Margy Whalley gives insight into how to work effectively in partnership with parents and the important role that the key person in this process.  |  |
| Eye | [In 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), we hear from one setting on the importance they place on communication with parents and families and some of the strategies they have found effective in the past.  |  |
| Eye | Now, we [hear from a parent](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/sharing-information-with-parents-a-parent-s-perspective-3-6years-.html) in this 2 minute video on why sharing information with parents and families is important and worthwhile.  |  |
| Eye | Effective sharing of information with parents and families takes commitment from early years educators. [In this 2 minute video video](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/examples-and-ideas-for-practice/sharing-information-with-parents-an-early-years-educators-perspective.html), we hear from another educator on how she approaches this and the benefits it brings.  |  |
| **Pencil outline** | You might now like to reflect on your practice in communicating with parent and families. [This Self-evaluation Tool](https://www.aistearsiolta.ie/en/building-partnerships-with-parents/self-evaluation-tools-/self-evaluation-tool-building-partnerships-with-parents.pdf) supports you to do this.  |  |

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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 | [*Aistear* Parent Partnerships](https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/fd9eca7f-c347-48a9-a0ba-9e120558fb7c/Partnerships-with-Practitioners_EN.pdf) Insights – Partnership with Parents (www.gov.ie)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. [Guidelines for Good Practice: Building Partnerships between parents and practitioners.](https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/fd9eca7f-c347-48a9-a0ba-9e120558fb7c/Partnerships-with-Practitioners_EN.pdf) Insights – Partnership with Parents (www.gov.ie)[Barnardos. (2021). Sharing Development Concerns with Parents A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals.](https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/398) [Barnardos. (2019). Working in Partnership with Parents: A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals.](https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/199) [Barnardos. (2020). Guidance for Childminders: Partnership with Parents.](https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/180) [Barnardos. (2020). Guidance for Childminders: Settling in and Developing Relationships](https://knowledge.barnardos.ie/handle/20.500.13085/178).  |