

Síolta and Aistear

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The time has come for *Childminding Ireland* to work with our members in engaging with Síolta, the Quality Framework for childcare and with Aistear, the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. Aistear helps with identifying quality learning environments, actions and attitudes which feed into the Síolta Quality Framework. I hope that you have become interested through reading about the Síolta Standards in the recent newsletters and that you can see how the Standards easily relate to your work and activities with children. **Síolta** Standards 3 and 4 are covered in this Newsletter.

To raise awareness and provide information on **Síolta** and **Aistear**, a series of workshops will be held throughout the country, hosted by *Childminding Ireland* and the other National Voluntary Childcare Organisations who will work together to provide optimum opportunities for all childcare providers to attend a workshop locally. I will provide you with information on these workshops.

I will work with each of you who wish to learn more about **Síolta** and **Aistear**, bringing you the **Síolta** manuals and **Aistear** materials and helping you to apply the standards to the quality care you provide for children.

Those of you who are providing the free pre-school year to children under the ECCE Scheme are required to operate under the principles of **Síolta** and I look forward to ensuring that you are working on the Standards and my role as **Síolta Co-ordinator** is to guide and help you with the process of reflection and with the task of gathering evidence of quality and building your portfolio.

Some Childminders have expressed concern that this is a huge amount to take on and admittedly, 16 Standards does sound like a lot of work! But in reality, a caring Childminder, who thinks about her work, reflects on how the children are developing and learning and who thinks about what *she does* to support that, is already engaging with quality. The **Síolta** Quality Framework helps you to demonstrate the quality of your work and provides signposts to the important areas to think about. I am very happy to have this role, working directly with Childminders again.