

WORKSHOPS • WORKSHOPS • WORKSHOPS

1. Kate Brown 'The Runaway Tractor'

Aistear Theme: **Identity & Belonging**

Farmer Green is very proud of her new red tractor. All the animals on the farm love the way it shines in the sun. But the old Shire horse is not so happy with its arrival. How can he be helpful on the farm if the tractor can do all of his work? This is an active and fun play session, which demonstrates through whole group participation how the use of drama can encourage our children to interact and work co-operatively, while exploring the feelings of the old Shire horse, who has lost his role on the farm and is feeling undervalued.

2. Kate Byrne 'Secondary Attachment'

Aistear Theme: **Identity & Belonging**

The workshop is about the importance of a Childminder as a secondary attachment figure in a child's life and building the relationships within this scenario.

3. Helen Maher 'Exploring and Learning about the Five Senses'

Aistear Theme: **Identity & Belonging**

The workshop participants will be focusing on activities that teach children about the five senses: what they can see, hear, smell, touch, and taste. Participants will create own sensory games, for example: Guess the Smell, and What's in the Bag? They will also make a texture board and musical instruments from recyclable materials. These activities will demonstrate how adults can enable children to develop an understanding of themselves and what they can do.

4. Sarah McGlinn 'Promoting Young Children's Language and Communication Development'

Aistear Theme: **Well-being**

In this workshop participants will learn how to turn everyday routines and activities into opportunities for children to learn language using methods that compliment Aistear. Participants will learn to respond to children in ways that help improve language learning, talking so that young children can understand them, and acquiring new words. All methods of promoting language development included in this workshop are based on scientifically-grounded strategies from the programmes You Make the Difference® and It Takes Two to Talk®.

5. Steve Goode 'Connecting Children to the Outdoors'

Aistear Theme: **Well-being**

Children's well-being, psychologically, emotionally and spiritually, is enhanced when they can play and explore outside in the natural world. This workshop will provide an opportunity to practise and try out a few art, exploration, and play activities using natural world found materials and working in the outdoors. Weather permitting, this workshop may take place in the grounds of the hotel. Participants should dress accordingly.

6. Mary O'Kane 'Supporting Children's Well-being at Times of Transition'

Aistear Theme: **Well-being**

This workshop will examine how Childminders can use the Well-being theme from Aistear to support the children in their care at times of transition, with a specific focus of children making the transition from childminder to the primary school setting.

7. Doireann Sheridan 'Starting With Story'

Aistear Theme: **Communicating**

This workshop is aimed at childminders interested in learning how they can get the most from reading stories to young children. During the workshop, the facilitator will lead participants through popular stories showing them how books can be used as the basis for extending literacy and topic work with children. Childminders will be shown how to bring stories alive, create a print-rich environment, develop language and communication skills, explore characters and events in stories, model writing for children, encourage children to become writers, and encourage dramatic play.

8. Helen Maher 'Bring a Puppet to Life'

Aistear Theme: **Communicating**

In this workshop childminders will be making sock puppets and finger puppets. Using a variety of materials, workshop participants will create fun animal and human puppets. Details of how to create a small stage at home will be given. In accordance with Aistear, as stated in Aistear, much of children's early learning and development takes place through play and hands-on experiences. The movements and voices that you make with the puppets can teach children language development, social interaction, communication, and understanding emotions.

9. Áine Ó Súilleabháin 'Enjoying Irish with Young Children'

Aistear Theme: **Communicating**

This workshop will assist Childminders to introduce the Irish Language to toddlers with the use of simple Irish rhymes and songs. Parents can, of course, beneficially use the same methods in the home. In the past ten years early exposure to linguistic learning has conclusively been shown to have many previously unsuspected intellectual and social benefits associated with it.

10. Deirdre O'Dwyer 'Imagined Worlds'

Aistear Theme: **Exploring & Thinking**

This workshop is for childminders interested in learning how to initiate children's play and how to intervene while children are playing to heighten the learning possibilities. The workshop will demonstrate how effective intervention can lead to learning that is holistic, active, relevant and meaningful, and how it promotes communication and language. The facilitator will also show how relationships can be enhanced; through play the adult and child become partners.

11. Christine Campbell 'Making Science Fun for Young Children'

Aistear Theme: **Exploring & Thinking**

At this hands-on workshop participants will find out what kind of science experiments very young children can do and will learn how to design suitable experiments for them. Participants will learn about various mechanisms and how the children can easily make a mechanism capable of lifting an adult. They will also investigate the sciences of sorting, painting, making slime, and lots more.

12. Carol Duffy 'Exploring and Thinking Through Play'

Aistear Theme: **Exploring & Thinking**

This interactive workshop will allow participants to "play" with a range of materials, ideas, and activities that can easily be provided for children. These materials will support children's exploring and thinking as they play. The workshop will demonstrate how recycled, natural, and low-cost materials provide extensive learning opportunities and experiences in a most enjoyable way.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

9.15 – 10.00am	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION Tea/coffee available on arrival
10.00 – 10.10am	WELCOME Opening address by An Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Bailey, Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown
10.10 – 10.45am	DR. MARY DALY, NCCA Introducing Aistear to Childminders
10.50 – 11.50am	Session 1: WORKSHOPS (1-6) Aistear themes: Well-being and Identity & Belonging
11.55 – 12.55pm	Session 2: WORKSHOPS (1-6 repeat) Aistear themes: Well-being and Identity & Belonging
1.00 – 2.15pm	Lunch / Networking
2.20 – 3.20pm	Session 3: WORKSHOPS (7-12) Aistear themes: Communication and Exploring & Thinking
3.25 – 4.25pm	Session 4: WORKSHOPS (7-12 repeat) Aistear themes: Communication and Exploring & Thinking
4.30 – 4.45pm	PATRICIA MURRAY, CHILDMINDING IRELAND Linking Síolta and Aistear
4.45 – 5.00pm	Certificates of Attendance / Raffle