Updating *Aistear*

Written submission template for organisations, groups and individuals

This template is intended to help you (and your colleagues) develop a written submission in relation to Updating *Aistear*. Please e-mail your completed submission to aistearsubmissions@ncca.ie

Individual submission details

Name	
Date	
E-mail	

Organisation submission details

Name	M. Flynn, M. Boyce, S.Cleary
Position	
Organisation	Westmeath County Childcare Committee
Date	
E-mail	

Do you consent to this submission being posted online including your name and organisation*?

Yes   [x]   No   [   ]

Please provide some brief background information on your organisation (if applicable).

> Westmeath County Childcare Committee is committed to creating an environment that values all children, by facilitating the development of an infrastructure of high quality early childhood care and educational services that support the holistic development of children in the context of family and community throughout the county of Westmeath

The remainder of the template includes two sections. Section 1 invites your overall comments and observations on *Aistear*: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. Section

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2 is structured according to the Principles, Themes and Guidelines for Good Practice. Each section is briefly summarised as a support for working on the submission.

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Section 1

Please outline your overall comments and observations on updating *Aistear*: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework

We welcome the update and review of *Aistear*: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. Aiatear havs been an excellent resource for practioners, students parents and children since its launch. It has defined the curriculum for the early years in an Irish context.
Since Aistear was developed there have been some advances and changes in the early years sector. We would like to recommend Aistear reflect and reference/include;

- The First Five
- The Children's First Act
- 2016 Tusla Regulations
- DES Inspections and expectations

The importance of the CCC working locally with services is a key component to the delivery of this framework and providing consistent ongoing supports.

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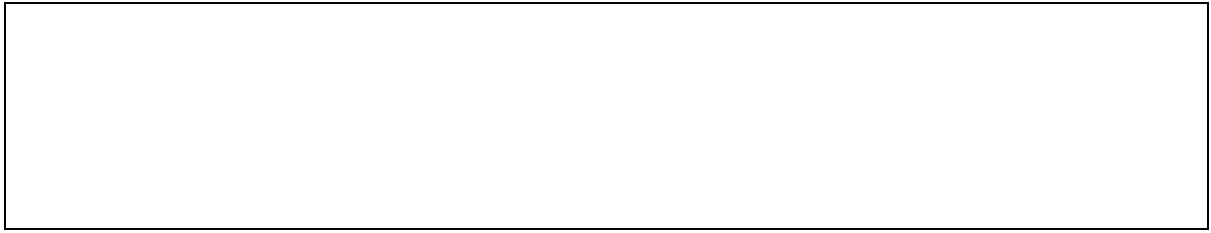
Section 2

Principles of *Aistear*

Aistear is based on 12 Principles of early learning and development. Each principle is presented using a short statement. This is followed by an explanation of the Principle from the child's perspective. This explanation highlights the adult's role in supporting children's early learning and development. The Principles can be accessed here.

Please give your feedback in relation to updating the Principles of *Aistear*. Please indicate what is working well with the principles and what might need to be enhanced or updated.

We have no futher recommendations for the content of the principles of Aistear, however we believe the principles are lost as a result of the colour coded themes when implementing Aistear in a service.

In an updated version we would recommend a more visual or color coded link the principles and the themes of Aistear.

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Section 3

Themes of *Aistear*

Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework presents children's learning and development using four Themes. These are:

1. Well-being
2. Identity and Belonging
3. Communicating
4. Exploring and Thinking.

The themes describe what children learn—the dispositions, attitudes and values, skills, knowledge, and understanding. Each theme begins with a short overview of its importance for children as young learners. The theme is then presented using four aims. Each aim is divided into six learning goals. Aistear's Themes can be accessed [here](#)
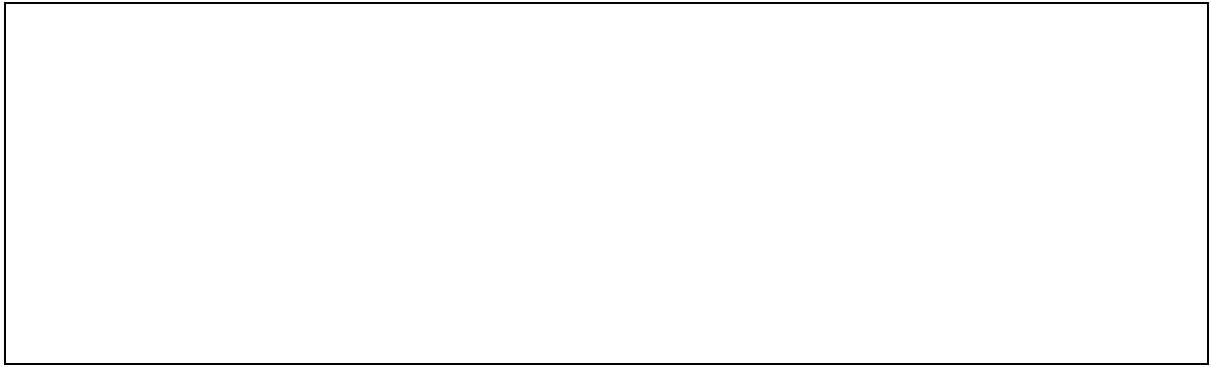

Please give your overall feedback in relation to the themes of *Aistear*. Please indicate what is working well with the themes and what might need to be enhanced or updated.

Working Well
- The themes are a visual part of the environments in an early years setting
- The themes being colour coded
- Throughout each theme there are clear roles identified
- The samples from practice are very clear

Recommindations
- The document is too big for practioners to use as a manual and reference on a daily basis, WCCC would like to recommend an action plan or the aistear/Siolta practice guide for practioners linking it to the DES inspections.

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Section 4

Guidelines for Good Practice

Aistear has four sets of guidelines, focusing on different aspects of practice:

1. Building partnerships between parents and practitioners
2. Learning and developing through interactions
3. Learning and developing through play
4. Supporting learning and development through assessment

These describe how the adult can support children's learning and development across *Aistear's* principles and themes. *Aistear's* Guidelines for Good Practice can be accessed here

> **Please give your overall feedback in relation to updating *Aistear's* Guidelines for Good Practice. Please indicate what is working well with the guidelines and what might need to be enhanced or updated.**
>
> The guidelines for good practice is an excellent reference however it is too big for practioners to use as a tool on a daily basis.

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