

What is Síolta?

Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education, was developed by the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education on behalf of the **Department of Education and Skills**. It was published in 2006, following a three-year developmental process, which involved consultation with more than 50 diverse organisations, representing childcare workers, teachers, parents, policy makers, researchers and other interested parties. Síolta is designed to define, assess and support the improvement of quality across all aspects of practice in early childhood care and education (ECCE) settings where children aged birth to six years are present. These settings include:

- Full and Part-time Daycare
- Childminding
- Sessional services
- Infant classes in primary schools

Since December 2008, the **Early Years Education Policy Unit**, in the Department of Education and Skills, has been responsible for the implementation of Síolta.

What is Aistear?

The aim of Aistear is to help every child to **grow and develop** as a **competent and confident learner**. Ultimately, according to Aistear, early childhood care and education must support a child's sense of:

- Well Being
- Identity & Belonging
- Exploring & Thinking
- Communication

These are the 4 main goals of Aistear and it proposes that they are achieved through the contexts of play and supported by caring, learning relationships with adults and peers. In this way it makes very strong links between care and education in the early years and firmly establishes the child's right to a safe, stimulating, nurturing and play-based environment.

Greenfields Childcare adopts the Síolta & Aistear Framework in its daily curriculum.

For More information on Síolta and Aistear please visit www.earlychildhoodireland.ie