

eTwinning Implementation Guide Early Childhood Education



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Aistear is the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework for all children aged 0 - 6 years in Ireland. The framework uses four interconnected themes to describe children's learning and development: Well-being; Identity and Belonging; Communicating; and Exploring and Thinking.

This guide demonstrates how eTwinning can be used as a tool to fulfil the Aistear Curriculum Framework with specific reference to these four themes.



Well-being

OUTCOME: Children are confident, happy and healthy.

Through collaborative eTwinning projects, children can engage in activities focused on emotional awareness, such as creating a "feelings board" where they can express different emotions with colors and drawings. Link up with a partner school and exchange these boards, encouraging children to see how we all share the same emotions and might express them differently.

Identity and Belonging

OUTCOME: Children have a positive sense of who they are, develop a sense of their culture and heritage and feel valued and respected as part of a family and community.

eTwinning facilitates connection with peers from other cultures, giving children an international perspective over their learning. A "Traditions" or "My Home" project could include drawings or descriptions of family or traditions, fostering a sense of identity and belonging where children can recognise their own cultures as well as learn about others.

Communicating

OUTCOME: Children share their experiences, thoughts, ideas and feelings with growing confidence and competence in a variety of ways and for different purposes.

eTwinning improves children's communication skills by enabling interaction with peers from different countries. An eTwinning project could be a "Hello" video where children introduce themselves in their home language. This enables them to confidently express themselves and become aware of linguistic diversity by learning about different languages and greetings.

Exploring and Thinking

OUTCOME: Children make sense of the things, places and people in their world.

Children can engage in a nature study eTwinning project where they observe local plants, animals or insects and then share their findings through photos or drawings with a partner school. Outdoor education encourages curiosity and reflection of the natural world, greatly benefiting children's wellbeing.

Impact for educators

- Use eTwinning to align with national educational policies and goals.
- Connect with international partners in a secure online environment.
- Increase the quality of learning experiences for children.
- Access a supportive online community of educators, learning resources and events through the European School Education Platform.
- Engage in Professional Development Opportunities abroad.