

# Supporting Oral Language and Literacy through a Pedagogy of Play and Playful Learning (Aistear) in the Mainstream Classroom

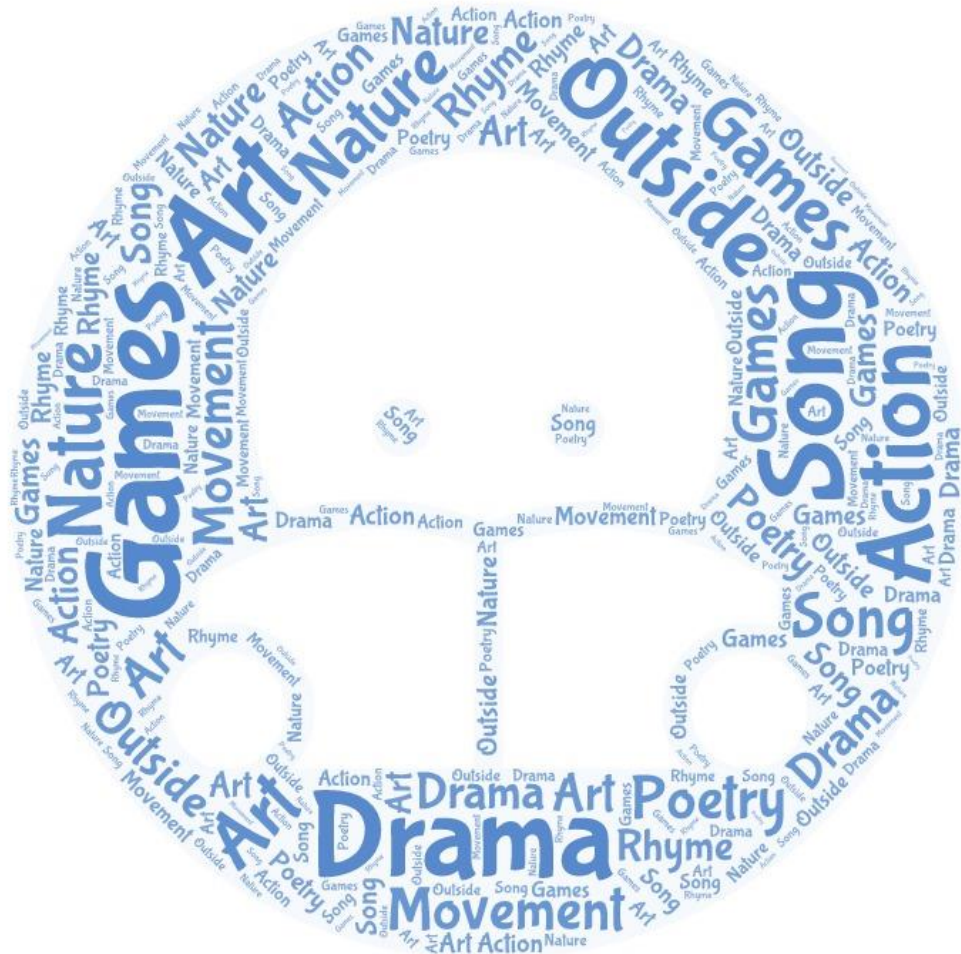


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“Aistear”

...

A framework for implementing a play pedagogy.



# A Pedagogy of Play

Playfulness underpinning the entire infant day.

# Structure

## 1. Daily child-led play

PLAN (5-10 min)

PLAY (45 min)

TIDY UP (5-10 min)

REVIEW (5-10 min)

Approx 1 hour each day,  
5 days a week.

## 2. Playful activities

Mostly teacher led

Discrete subject time

Learning intentions

# INTEGRATION

Implementing a topic-based approach.

Choose the topic for the month based on the areas of the curriculum that you wish to cover.  
E.g. Animals (Pets)

SESE: Living Things

Maths: Data and Number

English: "Dear Zoo", Rod Campbell

How will this topic lend itself to a) the child-led play session and b) playful teacher activities throughout the day?

# Child Led Play Session

5 areas: children play at one area per day.

Ensure balance between types of play:

Pretend (socio-dramatic, small world)

Creative (junk art, play-dough, lego)

Physical (blocks, water, sand)

### Lego Area:

- Vocab.
- Shape & Space
- Mapping

### Socio-D: PETSHOP

- Money
- Labels
- Vocab.

### Small World:

- Home/  
Shopping  
Centre/ Farm
- Vocab
  - Planning

LITERACY  
AREA

### Water:

- Capacity
- Floating and Sinking
- Vocab.

### Junk Art:

- Design
- Make
- Reason
- Problem Solve
- Vocab

MATHS  
AREA

NB: High quality resources that encourage the learning outcomes you hope to achieve.

# Discrete Subject Time Supports The Hour of Child-led Play: Teacher Led Playful Activities

## ● Language:

- Big book reading lessons - "Dear Zoo" by Rod Campbell
- Sequencing and matching pictures/vocab (integrate History)
- Retelling with actions/ masks/ puppets
- Song "Dear Zoo" on Youtube
- Animal vocabulary games, Nature walk
- Letter writing - request a pet from Dublin Zoo/ similar
- Procedural writing - How to take care of the class goldfish
- Poems/Rhymes/Finger plays: Ten little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, Istigh sa Zú

Games with  
Rules  
Language Play

## ● Numeracy

- Data: Favourite pets pictogram
- Counting sets, counting songs, animal themed addition and subtraction games
- Sorting/matching/classifying games (whole class or small groups), Jigsaws



# Plan

Integration topic  
Intended L.O.s  
Play areas and resources  
Discrete learning activities  
Facilitate children's  
planning

## Role of the Teacher...

# Review

Self-evaluate  
Adapt areas according  
to observations  
Facilitate children's  
review

# DO

Observe & Assess  
Facilitate child-led play  
Interact during play  
Encourage and extend  
MODEL skills, vocab,  
behaviour, dispositions

So where does the support teacher fit into all this? An alternative to withdrawal for certain students...

- Small groups, mixed ability
- Learning from a more knowledgeable other (peers)
  - Can give them the opportunity to be the MKO
    - Opportunity for assessment
      - Holistic

Try to:

- Observe the play
- Ask open ended questions
- Know the topic and the areas
- Familiarise yourself with types of play
- Get on board with CHILD LED!
- Support the teacher - planning, resources etc
- Encourage the children throughout the school day/ check in with them
- Integrate plans esp if doing withdrawal in conjunction with aistear
- SET focus students - Assessment

Any questions?