

# eTwinning Implementation Guide Early Childhood Education



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.