

Strengthening Foundations of Learning: A New Early Years Practice Programme

In September 2013 [Preparing for Life](#) announced a new professional development course for early years educators in Dublin 5 and Dublin 17. The Strengthening Foundations of Learning (SFL) programme will work with educators from eight early years settings from January 2014 until June 2016.

The SFL team, consisting of a Programme Manager, Quality Mentor and Speech and Language therapist, will engage with educators to enrich and enhance learning and language experiences for children. The programme evaluation will be overseen by Nóirín Hayes, Visiting Professor with Trinity College Dublin.

Aistear, the Early childhood Curriculum Framework, will form the basis of this 2 year programme with key messages from *Aistear's Principles and Themes* and *Guidelines for Good Practice* (2009) informing each strand of the project.

Project strands include

- Curriculum Development
- Oral Language Development
- Pedagogical Leadership
- Transition to Primary School



Emma Byrne Mac Namee, Early Years Programme Manager



Sandra O'Neill, Early Years Quality Mentor



Triona Rooney, Speech & Language Therapist