

# Aistear



**This learning experience is an example of how one service supports one of the learning goals in Aistear's theme of Communicating.**

One of the children in our room suggested that he would like to wash the creature and animals from the small world area, and we happily obliged! Many of the other children joined in

The children were washing the creatures from their small world area and became interested in the dinosaurs. They asked about their names and characteristics so we pulled out a book on dinosaurs to see if we could learn more about them.

We learned the names of the dinosaurs, talked about what they eat and where they had lived. We learned names like Tera dactyl, Triceratops, Apatosaurus, Stegosaurus, Brachiosaurus and Velociraptor as well as each dinosaur's distinctive features and eating habits.

## Learning Experience: Making Dinosaur Eggs

**Setting :** Jigsaw, Dublin 17

**Setting Type:** Full and Part time Day care

**Age Group:** Toddlers

**Theme:** Communicating

**Aim 3:** Children will broaden their understanding of the world by making sense of experiences through language

**Learning Goal 5:** In partnership with the adult children will have the opportunity to use a variety of mark-making materials and implements in an enjoyable and meaningful way



Matching our dinosaurs to the book





Chalk ball or dinosaur eggs?

When one of the children remarked that a chalk ball in the room looked like a dinosaur egg, we asked if the children would like to make their own dinosaur eggs. The staff asked the children to list what would be needed to make the eggs. The adults wrote down the groups' suggestions and made a shopping list.



The children then went on a trip to the local supermarket to buy the items on the shopping list including food colouring, balloons and more dinosaurs.

The children found and picked the items from the shelves, took them to the till to be scanned and put the money in the slot, waiting for change.



Paying for our items



We returned to our room and, with some help, the children squeezed a dinosaur into each balloon and filled it with coloured water and brought it to the kitchen to freeze overnight.

The next day the children removed the balloons using hammers and screwdrivers to free the dinosaurs from the ice.



## Play leader's reflections

*This activity lasted a whole week and even the parents became interested in the children's ideas, trying to learn the names and characteristics of the Dinosaurs*

*The children learned the different names of the dinosaurs, about how they lived and what they eat*

*The children also learned valuable life skills by shopping for the items needed by themselves*



*Look I got the  
Dinosaur out*

An excerpt from our floor book



## Ideas to extend the children's learning

- Trip to the natural history museum in Dublin's City Centre to look at other animals that are now extinct
- Digging for 'dinosaurs' either outside in the soil or in the sand pit, using tools like an archaeologist
- Teaching children about other experts who study dinosaurs such as a palaeontologist, to explain what they do, how they do it and the importance of their role.

This experience also links to:  
*Well-being, Aim 1, Learning goal 6*  
*Identity and Belonging, Aim 1 Learning goal 6*  
*Identity and Belonging, Aim 4, Learning goal 3*