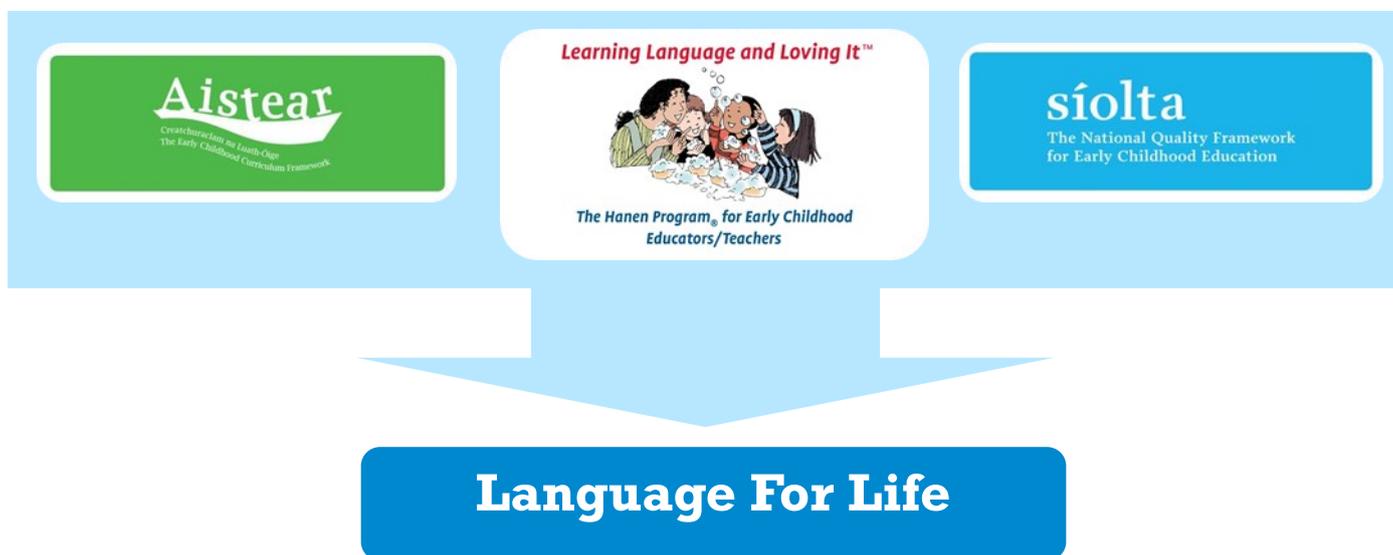


## **Strengthening Foundations of Learning: Language for Life**

**Preparing for Life** is a prevention and early intervention initiative based in Dublin 5 and 17. It began as a home visiting programme and has since developed to include ante-natal, early years and school support programmes.

Our oral language development programme, **Language for Life**, is delivered to our partner early years settings. The main component of the programme is *Learning Language and Loving It™ – The Hanen Program® for Early Educators/Teachers*. This is an evidence based programme, which provides early years educators with strategies to help all children build oral language, literacy and social skills.

In **Language for Life**, we make links to Aistear, The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. In this way, participants can embed their learning in the themes and learning goals of Aistear and weave the strategies into everyday activities and planning.



### **Why do we focus on interactions between adults and children?**

- Research in Preparing for Life's catchment area has shown that children have performed significantly below the norm in the areas of language, cognitive development, communication and general knowledge, at school entry.
- The better the interactions between children and educators, the better the outcomes for children, in pre-school and later on in life.

***Interactions drive  
development***

Professor Edward Melhuish,  
University of Oxford

## How do we work?

Participants take part in:

- Fortnightly group training sessions over 3 months
- On-site individual mentoring where participants practice the strategies with children in their own setting and receive video feedback from our Speech and Language Therapist

Language for Life is led by Preparing for Life's Speech and Language Therapist (who is seconded from our local HSE team), with support from the Early Years Quality Mentor and Programme Manager.

## What do participants learn?

Participants learn practical, research-based strategies for:

- Promoting every child's language development using natural everyday activities, routines and play
- Becoming attuned to children's interests and following their lead, which is known to foster language development
- Adjusting the way they talk to help children learn more advanced language skills
- Promoting interaction among children
- Facilitating language-learning in play
- Fostering emergent literacy skills



## For more information contact

**Emma Byrne Mac Namee**  
Early Years Programme Manager  
emma.byrne@nspartnership.ie  
01 877 1603

**Triona Rooney**  
Speech and Language Therapist  
triona.rooney@nspartnership.ie  
01 877 1531

**Sandra O'Neill**  
Early Years Quality Mentor  
sandra.oneill@nspartnership.ie  
01 877 1534