

Áit Scríbhne- oireachta Writing area



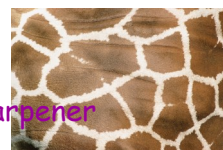
Aiseanna/Resources

The writing area should include:

- An alphabet chart with photographs of everyday objects
- Examples of print in the environment
- Name cards
- Paper in assorted sizes, shapes and colours
- Headed paper, line paper and office stationery
- Assorted envelopes- new and used
- Assorted pencils, fibre pens, pastels, chalks, charcoal, and crayons
- Clipboards and pencils
- Postcards, greeting cards and other writing formats
- A typewriter
- Sellotape, masking tape and Pritt sticks
- Hole punch and stapler
- Assorted ready made books
- Speech bubbles and labels
- A post box

Some náiscoils include an office area to encourage role play and writing for a purpose. Additional resources may include:

- Filing trays
- Stationery catalogues
- Keyboard and monitor
- Diaries, calendars and address books
- Telephone and notepads
- Rubber stamps
- Paper-clips, fasteners and a pencil sharpener



Foghlaim/Learning

Although the primary aim of the writing area is to support children's development, in communication, language and literacy, learning across all six areas of the curriculum can take place here. It is an area which offers opportunities for children to:

- * Select and use resources independently
- * Make marks and attempt to write for different purposes
- * Begin to record their mathematical ideas, draw shapes and form numerals
- * Select from a widening range of tools and techniques to suit their needs
- * Express and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings through drawing and mark-making
- * Handle graphic media and tools such as scissors with increasing confidence and control



Suíomh/Location

- The writing area should be as large as possible with space for clearly accessible storage and room for displays
- The writing area should be situated in a quiet (but not out of the way area) part of the learning environment. Children need time and space so that they can work uninterrupted
- Children need to know where writing resources are kept and that they can be transported to other areas of learning if necessary
 - Náiscoils can locate the writing area next to the computer so that children can access word processing packages to support their learning.



Pleanáil/Planning

Plan for children to have

- Daily access to the writing area
- Time to work with adults supporting their writing and to see adults writing for real reasons
- Opportunities to use writing resources throughout the learning environment provide small open toolboxes with clipboards, paper and pencils that children can lift with ease
- Opportunities to engage in writing with purpose, such as writing lists, menus, making greeting cards and drawing plans for construction
- Diversity in presentation . Plan to change displays and present resources in stimulating and interesting ways
- Monitor the use of the writing area and use it to inform future planning. if the area is underused consider relocating it or restocking it to stimulate the children's interest.



Tacaíocht foghlama/ supporting learning

The adult role:

- Spend time in the writing area carrying out real writing tasks, such as filling the register or making up lists
- Display samples of writing such as letters, invitations, instructions and books. Provide writing formats for the children to try out these ideas
- Provide speech bubbles and encourage children to talk about their writing and work so that you can scribe their comments where necessary
- Use books as a stimulus for children's drawing and writing—for example an apology from Cinnin Óir
- Provide pens and clipboards to encourage children to use writing resources throughout the náiscoil e.g. drawing maps in the construction area or taking orders at am sosa
- Introduce, use and reinforce language which is specific to learning in this area

Eispéireas agus gníomhaíochtaí/experiences and activities

The writing area should be available on a regular basis. Staff should plan experiences that extend the children's knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes.

- Encourage children to write because they want to and for real purposes. If you are planning a teddy bears' picnic or party, design the invitations with the children. Some children will write their own name others will use early mark-making. Some will want an adult to act as scribe for their ideas. Post the completed invitations ensuring each child gets one. Children will enjoy delivering and 'reading' the invitations together.



Teanga/language

Introduce, use and reinforce the specific language of learning in the writing area

litir focal abairt scríobh tarraing clúdach dialann seoladh bolgán cainte stáplóir pollaire taifead ainmneacha na litreach fuaimeanna na litreach

letter word sentence write draw envelope diary address speech bubble stapler hole punch record names of letters sounds of letters