

An Cúinne Baile Home Corner

Foghlaim/learning

Learning across all six areas of the curriculum can take place in the Home Corner. It is an area which offers opportunities for children to:

- * Work as part of a group, take turns & co-operate
- * Increase their vocabulary through conversations and discussions
- * Use developing mathematical ideas to solve practical problems
- * Develop their understanding of the world as recreate roles
- * Use their imagination in imaginative and role play and express and communicate their ideas
- * Develop their fine motor skills as they use small equipment with increasing control and undertake everyday tasks such as folding etc



Suíomh/Location

Some naíonraí have two role play areas—the permanent home corner and a role play areas linked to a theme. They should be next to each other.

- Position the Home Corner in a large a space as possible
- Many naíonraí locate the Home Corner next to the construction area to encourage children to use the area in a more imaginative way and support their learning by moving resources between the areas.

Pleanáil/Planning

Plan for children to have:

- ♦ Daily access to the home corner
- ♦ Opportunities to use the home corner equipment in other areas of the naíscoil
- ♦ Opportunities to develop their communication, language and literacy through everyday, realistic experiences such as using address books and writing messages and memos
- ♦ Diversity in presentation. Plan to change displays and remove and add resources. Change the leaflets, appointment cards and postcards on the notice-board.
- ♦ Monitor the use of the Home Corner and use the observations to inform future planning e.g. if children are showing an interest in gardening add flowers, pots, gardening implements and window boxes.

Aiseanna/Resources

It is best to use 'real' resources rather than toys- e.g. telephones and kitchen utensils. Basic home corner resources should include:

- Pictures, posters of families and the local and wider community
- Cooker/hob and pots and pans
- Refrigerator and sink
- Matching crockery and cutlery
- Bed, cot and bedding
- Table and 4 chairs
- Vegetable rack and vegetables
- Telephone and phone directories
- Wall clock and alarm clock
- Teapot and kettle
- Notepad, paper and pens
- Reading materials- storybooks, cookery books, magazines, TV magazines
- Full-length mirror
- Notice-board and junk mail—cab cards, takeaway menus, receipts
- Linen—tea-towels, towels and tablecloth
- Clothes rack with assorted dressing-up clothes
- Ear, and tails for children to engage in imaginative play e.g. Cinnín Óir agus na Trí Bhéar, Na Trí Mhuicín
- Beads and other jewellery
- Spacecraft & aliens
- Television and microwave
- Dustpan, brush, mop and bucket
- Assorted dolls and clothes



Eispéireas agus gníomhaíochtaí/ experiences and activities

The Home Corner should be available at every session. Naíscoil staff should plan activities that extend children's knowledge & understanding, skills and attitudes:

- Plan a party. Provide invitations, decorations, cards and wrapping paper. Encourage the children to decide on a guest list and write invitations and greeting cards. Write a shopping list. Decorate the home corner and party table. Help children choose presents from around the room and wrap them.
- Introduce a new pet to the home corner. This may be linked to the animal theme. Discuss what sort of pet is suitable and then decide what is needed to make the pet comfortable— in the case of a dog provide a bed, feeding bowls, collar, brush lead etc
- If you haven't already got a pinboard in the Home Corner create one with the children. Collect some advertising materials such as taxi cards, take away leaflets, appointment cards, postcards and money off vouchers. Talk to the children about how and when they are used. Encourage parents and children to bring in more from home.
- Ensure staff understand the learning opportunities available in the Home Corner so that they can articulate them to parents. Encourage parents to contribute everyday objects from home.

Tacaíocht foghlama/ supporting learning

Naíscoil staff should:

- Engage in play when appropriate
- Private and uninterrupted play is essential for children's development
- Support children's personal, social and emotional development by talking about how and why characters feel and behave in the way that they do.
- Where appropriate use specific language in role by for example reading recipes or writing phone messages.
- Ask open ended questions that will encourage discussion, imagination & creativity
- Avoid clutter but do encourage children to use resources from other areas

Teanga/language

Introduce, use and reinforce the specific language of role play:

sípeanna faiscíní rólanna eolairí cur i gcéill léarscáil féilire dialann clár pionnaí samhlaigh mias mapa ag gléasadh suas ainmneacha teaglaigh (Mamáí, deirfiúr, Maimeo srl) torthaí glasraí earraí baile
Zips fasteners roles directories pretend map calendar diary pinboard imagine bowl mop dressing up family names (Mammy, sister, Maimeo etc) fruit vegetables household items

