

# An Cúinne Leabhair The Book Corner



## Suíomh/Location

- Position your book area in an accessible & quiet area of the náiscoil
- Make the area cosy but large enough for a group of children to sit comfortably
- Allow space for book displays, wall space & book storage
- Divide books into sections or label information books with 'E' for eolas
- Have a focus area for books relating to theme or topic
- Have space to display children's work about books—own books etc

## Aiseanna/Resources

The Book Corner should include:

- Pictures & posters about reading/photographs of children using books
- Rugs, cushions, drapes, plants or other natural objects
- Storybooks & information texts
- Traditional stories, rhymes & songs
- Dual language books
- Books with positive images of children & adults of different races, cultures, genders & abilities
- Story props, puppets, soft toys
- Cassette recorder or CD player with headphones and range of CDs or tapes
- Comics, magazines, catalogues
- Picture books, board books, flap books

Children should have access to a wide range of resources most of the time. As a bare minimum, they should have daily access to:

- A comfortable place to sit
- Quality storybooks & information texts
- Some story props

For storage and organisation:

- Have shelving & storage that allows the front of books to be displayed
- Ensure books are accessible to children- on low shelves or wire frame boxes

## Foghlaim/learning

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

- \* Develop knowledge & understanding of the world through non-fiction books
- \* Turn-take & share as children listen to stories as part of a group or look at books with friends
- \* Develop skills in communication, language & literacy
- \* Link sounds and letters & reading
- \* Experiment with sounds, words & texts.
- \* Learn to retell narratives in correct sequence
- \* Develop an understanding of the elements in stories—character, sequence of events, endings
- \* Retrieve information from non-fiction books—ask & answer questions about who, where, why & how



## Pleanáil/Planning

Ensure that children have access to:

- ♦ A wide-ranging collection of high quality fiction and information books
- ♦ Adults who value & enjoy books & reading & take every opportunity to share books with children
- ♦ A learning environment which shows that books & reading are valued and a high priority
- ♦ A book area which is welcoming & invites children & adults to share books together
- ♦ An atmosphere which encourages parents to share books in the náiscoil setting & at home
- ♦ Appropriate & planned daily story sessions
- ♦ Adults to spend time in book area to ensure that children develop appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes about books
- ♦ Monitor children using the book area & evaluate their learning
- ♦ Use observations & evaluations of children to inform future planning in the book area



## Eispéireas agus gníomhaíochtaí/ experiences and activities

Story & book sharing sessions are regular features of life in the náiscoil. Staff should plan experiences that extend children's knowledge & understanding, skills & attitudes in the book area.

- Let children undertake reviews of their favourite story. Encourage them to draw their favourite character of part of story. Staff/children can 'write' the story as the child tells it. These reviews can be compiled onto 'Our Favourite Stories'
- Use props, puppets etc to illustrate sequence in stories. Initially staff will have to model and reinforce the use of props in retelling of stories but children will learn to use them independently
- Ensure staff understand how children learn to read so that they can work in partnership with parents to develop children's reading skills
- Organise book lending scheme so children can share favourite stories with families
- Organise workshops to inform parents about aspects of learning to read & using props in retelling stories

## Tacaíocht foghlama/ supporting learning

The adult role is to foster an attitude in children that they are readers. It is only when a child believes that they can read, that they will have the confidence to retell a story and later begin to make sense of print. Náiscoil staff should:

- Introduce a variety of language structures, including story, rhyme & information texts
- Create a print-rich environment where books & reading are enjoyed and valued
- Share books with children on a regular basis & encourage children to talk about books
- Act as role models as readers & storytellers. Support children as they retell using props etc
- Ask questions that will help children understand the purpose of books & the nature of reading
- Introduce, use & reinforce the specific language of books & reading with words



## Teanga/language

Introduce, use and reinforce the specific language of books & reading:

leabhar clúdach teideal leathanach litir focal abairt  
caibidil tús deireadh scríbhneoireacht rím/rann pictiúr  
léamh éist  
book cover title page letter word sentence chapter  
beginning end writing rhyme picture read listen

