

1st Biennial Conference on Early Childhood Education

Froebel College of Education, Dublin in partnership with the Irish National Council for Curriculum and Assessment hosted a very successful 1st Biennial Conference on Early Childhood Education on 21st May 2010. The Conference was entitled, 'Playing to Learn - Sowing the Seeds to Start the Journey'. The target audience was practitioners in the field from all early-childhood settings. Participants at the conference included many practicing infant and early-start teachers, practitioners from early-years settings, as well as representatives from management, policy makers and those engaged in early childhood education at third level.

Keynote Speaker, Professor Elizabeth Wood from the University of Exeter, presented on the topic "Learning, Pedagogy and Curriculum" which highlighted the benefits of play for children and how they learn through play. Professor Noirin Hayes from Dublin Institute of Technology responded to Professor Wood's presentation and related it to the Irish context. The feedback from participants emphasised how insightful, relevant and inspiring they found the event.

Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework together with the *Síolta Standards* provided the context for practitioners to showcase exemplars of play in twelve interactive workshops across the curriculum. The participants found the workshops very motivating and were inspired with many ideas to implement on their return to their various early-childhood settings.



