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| **Minor Award Name** | **Early Learning Environment** |
| **Minor Award Code** | **6N1933** |
| **Level** | **6** |

**Suggested resources to support delivery:**

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| **Theme/Topic** | **Type** | **Relevance** | **Author/Source** | **Web Link** |
| Quality Environments for Children | Journal Article | The Aspects of a Quality Environments for children. Places and spaces: The Materials needed to create them. | Isbell.R & Exelby.B (2001) “Early Learning Environments that work”, Gryphon House Inc, U.S.A | <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Early-Learning-Environments-That-Work/dp/0876592566/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1476875776&sr=8-1&keywords=Early+Learning+Environments+That+Work> |
| Policy regulation | Ensuring that environments, both indoor and outdoor (including materials and equipment) are well-maintained, safe, available, accessible, adaptable, developmentally appropriate, and offer a variety of challenging and stimulating experiences. | Siolta, The National Quality Framework for Early Childcare Education, Standard 2, Environments | <http://siolta.ie/media/pdfs/Research%20Digest%20-%20Environments.pdf> |
| Article | Extreme class makeovers: Low Cost and High Impact. Getting children to know and fully understand their environment. | Isbell, R., & Exelby, B. (2001). Early Learning Environments that Work. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House Publishers. | <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:kNKDWebK4VkJ:drisbell.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Handout-Makeovers-TX.doc+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=ie> |
| Barnardos Journal publication | A journal article designed to share good practice among professionals while also sharing practical guidance for childcare practitioners. | Barnardos (2003) “Supporting Quality:  Guidelines for Best Practice in Early Childhood Services” Author Geraldine French | <http://www.barnardos.ie/resources-advice/publications/free-publications/sharing_good_practice.html>  <http://shop.barnardos.ie/search?controller=search&orderby=position&orderway=desc&search_query=Supporting+Quality%3A+Guidelines+&submit_search> |
| The importance of risky play in providing environments for children | Barnardos – Childlinks Journal | Firstly, the Barnardos Childlinks journal is one that professionals find extremely beneficial for various topics relating to the sector. In a specific sense, the journal article concentrates on the relevance and importance of risky play. The included element of risky play into a curriculum can provide so many additional benefits such as physical improvement on their development. Also, the child will be given the opportunity to use their decision making & problem solving skills. | Barnardos (2011) “Children’s Risky Play”, Issue 3, [online] | <http://shop.barnardos.ie/22-free-ebooks?p=2>  <http://shop.barnardos.ie/publications/109-ebook-childlinks-childrens-risky-play-issue-3-2011.html> |
| Changing environments | Book | Children are growing up in a changing world and becoming much more aware of various factors such as religion and technology. This book explores the various influences that affect a child’s environment and seems to link in well with the work of Urie Bronfenbrenner. | Freeman.C & Tranter.P (2011), “Children and their urban environments, Changing Worlds”, Earthscan Publishing, London | Abstract and limited pages can be found on  <https://books.google.ie/books?id=yWH349Q6zuAC&printsec=frontcover&dq=child+friendly+environments&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwisrvygoZPOAhXFDsAKHR3hDAsQ6AEIODAG#v=onepage&q=child%20friendly%20environments&f=false> |
| Guide to the learning environment | Article | This article aids the childcare professional in making full use of the learning environment that surrounds them. It is broken down across toddlers, pre-schoolers etc and how best their surroundings can be utilised. | Kildare County Childcare Committee, “What?, Why?, How?, Guide to Play and The Learning Environment” | <http://www.kkccc.ie/uploads/9/9/6/1/9961694/guide-to-play-the-learning-environment.pdf> |
| Creating Early Learning Environments | Booklet | This booklet provides very useful information on the best techniques and things to look out for when creating a learning environment. The booklet goes over accessible materials and the various domains of child development all in an attempt to show the best ways of creating early learning environments. | Ministry of Education (2009) “Creating Early Learning Environments” | <http://curriculum.nesd.ca/Pre-Kindergarten/General%20Information/Ministry%20Pre-K%20Supports/Outdoor%20Learning%20Environments%20Resource%20Booklet.pdf?Web=1> |
| Outdoor Environment | DVD | This DVD provides an insightful look into the possibilities around using your outdoor environment to get the best value. It provides a creative and positive outlook on outdoor play and its influence. | Early Childhood Ireland | <file:///C:/Users/noelenesharkey@cmetb.ie/Downloads/Publication-order-form-updated-August-2015.pdf>  (DVD has to be ordered, purchase form attached) |
| Learning to Play through Drama: A study of Irish Preschool and Primary children’s experiences | Journal Article | Drama is an exciting learning medium that builds on children’s natural ability to explore the world through pretence. The research was conducted in a preschool and an infant school in the same area and the children were aged between three and six. | McCabe. U cited in Murphy. R, Radley. P & Ridgeway. A OMEP Ireland Journal Article, p.117, Volume 7, 2013, available at: [www.omepireland.ie](http://www.omepireland.ie) | <http://www.omepireland.ie/downloads/An%20Leanbh%20Og%20Volume%207%202013.pdf> |
| Messy Play activities | Website | One essential element of having a successful learning environment is having various types of play that the children in your care can engage in. Messy Play is one type that should be promoted and utilized for the value that is brings. | Sonnier.A (2013), “Learn, Play, Imagine, Website for activity sources”, available at: <http://www.learnplayimagine.com/2013/02/200ideasformessyplay.html>, | <http://www.learnplayimagine.com/2013/02/200ideasformessyplay.html> |
| Creating and using the learning environment | Practice Guide | Practitioners, parents and other have to be capable and aware of using the environment around them to inform their practice and their learning opportunities | Aistear and Siolta Practice Guide | <http://www.ncca.ie/en/Practice-Guide/Creating-And-Using-The-Learning-Environment/Pillar-Overview-Creating-and-Using-the-Learning-Environment.pdf> |
| Ensuring a quality learning environment | Website | Online American resource to help all involved with ideas on ensuring a high quality environment for children to learn and grow. | High Quality Early Learning Environment | <http://www.seedsofpartnership.org/hqele/index.html> |
| Published article | An article focused on ensuring learning environments and the belief of an influential physical environment on the development and behaviour of children in the early year’s settings. | Dr. Margaret Kernan | [http://www.ecalignment.ie/RECEC-Learning%20environments%20that%20work\_Kernan\_FINAL%20NH[2].pdf](http://www.ecalignment.ie/RECEC-Learning%20environments%20that%20work_Kernan_FINAL%20NH%5b2%5d.pdf) |
| Learning through play | PDF File | Children love to play, and play often mirrors what is important in their lives. When asked about play children talk about having fun, being with friends, choosing activities themselves, and being outdoors. This resource explores these options. | Aistear Learning and Developing through play | Please see attached file. |
| Building partnerships between parents and practitioners | PDF File | Parents are the most important people in their children’s early lives. Children learn about the world and their place in it through their conversations, play activities, and routines with parents and families. This resource explores this key relationship. | Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework | Please see attached file. |
| Children’s Learning and Development | PDF File | This background paper *Children’s early learning and development,* sets out the theory and research underpinning children’s early learning and development in the *Framework for Early Learning*. | French.G (2007) “Children’s Early Learning and Development – A Background paper”, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Dublin | Please see attached file. |
| Scandanavian model of learning | Powerpoint presentation | This presentation gives an insight into the attitude and experiences of children in Norwegian pre-schools. | Lysklett.O, Out All Week Long, Outdoor Norwegian Preschools | Please see attached file. |

**Useful Organisations:**

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| **Name** | **Contact Information** |
| Early Childhood Ireland | [www.earlychildhoodireland.ie](http://www.earlychildhoodireland.ie) |
| Aistear, The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework | [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie) |
| Siolta | [www.siolta.ie](http://www.siolta.ie) |

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| **MOOCs (Massive Online Open Courses)** | |
| Free access to online courses  Search regularly for new courses and new start dates | <https://www.mooc-list.com/> |