

My Place to Play Baby Play Mat

National Project
to support the
development of
babies living in
International
Protection
Accommodation

Briefing Session for Practitioners



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice
and Equality

CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS
ALLIANCE
Uniting Voices For Children





An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice
and Equality

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“My Place to Play” Briefing Session for practitioners

Practice session	Marion Byrne, Early Learning Initiative
Questions & answers session	Lana Cummins, Early Learning Initiative [Moderator] Marion Byrne, Early Learning Initiative
Closing remarks	Bernard Cantillon, IPAS, Department of Justice and Equality



Today's Presentation will cover the following:

- How this project came about and what it involves
- What resources the families will receive and how to engage them to use them
- Why this project is of benefit for child under 1 year old.

Background



Increase numbers of children living in emergency accommodation



Limited space to play



Promotion of the need for Tummy Time



Babies needing a sense of belonging



Promote the value of physical development



Support parents to interact and play with their child.

Overall aim of the My Place to Play Mat

To promote the importance of play for children in terms of their overall development but particularly in terms of their social and physical development. It is particularly important for those living in cramped living conditions to encourage creating a space and time for play that allows children to explore their own self-identity and see the mat and play as part of their time to explore and learn. Even as little as 15 minutes a day enhances their development.

Learning Goals

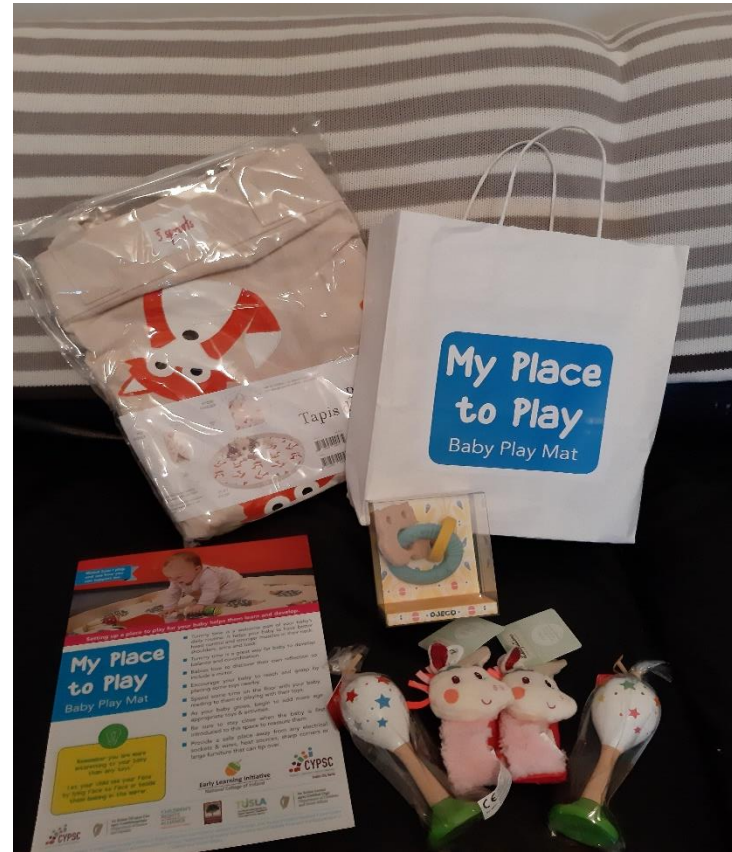
Through the use of the mat and the individual items within it, we are aligning with the learning goals that fall under Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. The mat supports well-being, identity and belonging and exploring and thinking.

Outcomes

Each item included promotes sensory development for children and supports the development of their fine and gross motor skills.



What will you receive?





Materials Provided

Product	Benefits	Suggested Activities
Play Mat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The baby having a set place to play no matter where they are staying Baby starts to associate this mat with play time Quality time with their parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just for the parent to be in that moment with the baby is sometimes good enough Singing songs with the baby Talking to the baby Moving toys out of the babies grasp to encourage movement
Rattle Rings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great for hand- coordination Promotes their senses; touch, taste and listen Adds to words if parents talk about the colours, textures etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving it so the child can follow it with their eyes As the child gets older hiding it and the child finding it
Mini Maracas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages movement of the arm Promotes singing and making music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action songs Adult can imitate the sound the baby makes
Mirror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages identity and belonging A great way of promoting communication Helps the baby discover themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent lying down with the baby and copying the baby's facial expressions Lie the mirror under the baby so they can look at themselves Place mirror at the side of the mat to encourage the child to move towards it
Ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ball promotes the child's movements Hand eye coordination Encourages gross motor movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the child can sit up, a parent can sit opposite and encourage rolling from one to the other. As the child explores the ball the adult can describe the colours textures, shape to expand the child's language

Links with Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework



Theme of Well-Being:

- Children will be as healthy and as fit as they can be.
- Gain increasing control and co-ordination of body movements
- Discover, explore and refine gross and fine motor skills

Theme of Identity and Belonging:

- Children will have strong self-identities and a sense of group identity
- Feel valued and see themselves and their interests reflected in the environment
- Feel that they have a place and a right to belong to a group

Exploring and Thinking:

- Babies learn and explore best when they feel safe and secure
- Support parents to be their child's secure base by advising them to:
- Provide a safe environment for their baby

Communication:

- Praise and encourage baby when they are exploring
- Be consistent with baby's daily routines eg tummy time
- Comfort baby when he/she is distressed, tired or overwhelmed

Connecting Aistear to My Place to Play



Tip Sheet:



My Place to Play Baby Play Mat



Remember you are more interesting to your baby than any toys!

Let your child see your face by lying face to face or beside them looking in the mirror.

- Tummy time is a welcome part of your baby's daily routine. It helps your baby to have better head control and stronger muscles in their neck, shoulders, arms and back.
- Tummy time is a great way for baby to develop balance and co-ordination.
- Babies love to discover their own reflection so include a mirror.
- Encourage your baby to reach and grasp by placing some toys nearby.
- Spend some time on the floor with your baby, reading to them or playing with their toys.
- As your baby grows, begin to add more age appropriate toys & activities.
- Be sure to stay close when the baby is first introduced to this space to reassure them.
- Provide a safe place away from any electrical sockets & wires, heat sources, sharp corners or large furniture that can tip over.



An Roinn DE agus Clár agus Creidimneacha
Department of Justice and Equality



An tAidmheall na nGaeil agus na nGaeilge
Child and Family Agency



An Roinn Leanaí agus Gaibéal Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

This national project is supported by the Children's Rights Alliance, the national network of Children and Young People's Seniors' Committees (CYPSC) and the International Protection Accommodation Service, Department of Justice with funding from Galfield Trust and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.



Professional Feedback

'My Place to Play' provided parents with:



Valuable learning opportunities



More opportunities to play with their children



Increased awareness of the importance of play



Increased awareness of tummy time



Increase awareness of the prevalence of flat head

Professional Feedback

'My Place to Play' supported professionals' practice in:



Highlighting importance of tummy time



Encouraging play time



Supporting positive interactions and fun



Providing a platform for discussing baby's health in a non-threatening way



Linking with additional families



Strengthening their relationship with their families

Professionals Feedback



Sometimes parents commented that they've no time to play. This gave a scheduled timeframe where the child and parent could play freely together throughout the day.



Some parents that I met feel as though they improved a lot in their own play with their child. They have also seen a marked improvement in the child positioning and head control, and appreciate seeing the smiles on the child's face experiencing this kind of play.



In regards to me professionally, it gave me an opportunity to build on my relationship with mum from the start and do something positive and beneficial for her and the children together. In child protection work families do not always see us as supportive at the start and I feel mum was less defensive as a result of me being able to provide this outlet to her and her child.

My Place to Play

Baby Play Mat

Introducing the mat and materials to Families

- ✓ Make time to sit with each participating family.
- ✓ Explain to the family that *My Place to Play's* purpose is to support baby's development and fun.
- ✓ Get the family to open the pack and take out the toys with you. Explain how each toy can be used and how it helps baby's development.
- ✓ Remind the family to use the mat on the floor with adult supervision.
This is the safest way to use everything.
- ✓ Let the family know that you will check in with them about how they are getting on, including taking part in a survey about the mat and toys.
- ✓ Check in with the family after a week if possible to see if they have any questions and just to generally ask them how they are getting on.



My Place to Play

Baby Play Mat

3 Key Points from Today

- MPTP materials support giving the children a sense of belonging.
- Promotion for tummy time to prevent flat head in young children.
- Encouraging even ten minutes of play to start with will promote all round development.



Final Thought

The UN Convention for the Rights of the child Article 31 1. states:

“Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.”
(United Nations P.1 1989)



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read over these slides, if you have any questions about how to use the My Place to Play materials please send an email to marion.byrne@ncirl.ie



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We would like to get as much feedback as possible on the project so it can inform all of us going forward and we would like this information to see the impact this project has made to the young children in our communities.

A Project Review managed by the national CYPSC office will be undertaken in the coming weeks and months. You will be asked to complete an online survey and to support participant families to fill out a survey especially for them too.

We'll be in touch!

Feed Back from Lána from the chat box

Q & A

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For more information on this Project contact the following:

For general queries contact:

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For queries from IPAS Accommodation Centres contact:

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