

## What does Emerging Literacy look like in the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)?

When ELC settings plan for their development of Emerging Literacy they will consider:

Developmentally appropriate interactions between adults and children which support children's language development both developmentally and across the curriculum.

### Adult/ Child Interaction – Words Up (Early)

#### What is it?

Adult/ child interaction is adults responsively playing and talking together with children, following the children's lead.

#### Why is it important?

Children learn new language through quality adult/ child interactions.

#### How do we develop it?

When planning for adult/child interaction in early years settings, practitioners can focus on:

- ❖ The Words Up (Early) key messages for adult/child interaction.

Face to face	Quiet time to talk	Play and talk together
Pause and wait	Copy and add	Be careful with questions

An environment, both indoors and outdoors, which supports the development of foundational literacy skills in the areas below.

### Phonological Awareness

#### What is it?

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognise and work with sounds in spoken language.

#### Why is it important?

Phonological awareness is the foundation for learning to read and spell.

#### How do we develop it?

Some children develop phonological awareness through day to day interactions, but others need explicit input.

When planning for phonological awareness in ELC settings, practitioners can focus on:

- ❖ hearing different sounds in the environment
- ❖ hearing words in a sentence
- ❖ rhyme and rhythm.

### Oral Language

#### What is it?

Oral language is the ability to understand language and use language to communicate.

#### Why is it important?

Children's oral language skills underpin their ability to communicate, to comprehend and to create texts.

#### How do we develop it?

Children develop language through quality adult/child interactions.

When planning for oral language in ELC settings, practitioners can focus on:

- ❖ modelling vocabulary across all areas of the setting (indoors and outdoors)
- ❖ retelling the same story a number of times in a week.

### Pre-Handwriting

#### What is it?

Pre-Handwriting skills are the essential building blocks for handwriting development in school.

#### Why is it important?

Children require the movement and coordination skills, including fine and gross motor, in order to develop handwriting efficiently.

#### How do we develop it?

When planning for pre-handwriting in ELC settings, practitioners can focus on:

- ❖ play opportunities focused on developing gross and fine motor skills
- ❖ play opportunities, with the appropriate scissors, focused on developing scissor skills.

### Concepts of Print

#### What is it?

Concepts of print includes using and enjoying stories, mark making and how to use a book.

#### Why is it important?

Children need to have an understanding of and appreciation of the underlying concepts of print in order to understand and create texts.

#### How do we develop it?

When planning for concepts of print in ELC settings, practitioners can focus on:

- ❖ big and small mark making across the setting (indoors and outdoors)
- ❖ providing and sharing a range of engaging developmentally appropriate texts.