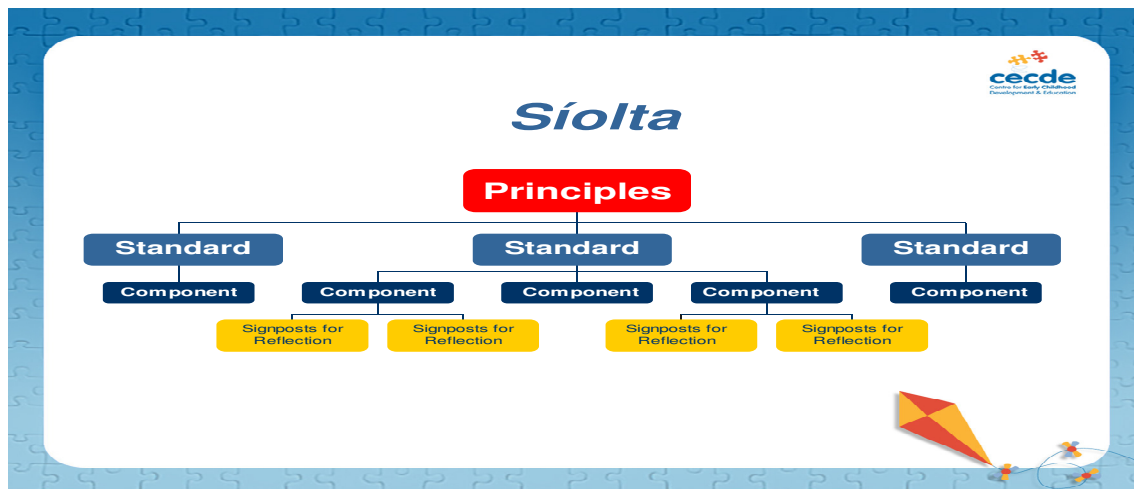


How Síolta is structured:



The Twelve **Principles of Quality** are the foundation upon which the framework is built and are a benchmark for all quality practice and service provision in Early Education. An example of one of the principles of quality would be that *“Play is central to the well-being, development and learning of the young child”*

Síolta comprises of Sixteen standards which cover the areas of practice services will address and aim to translate into practice. The 16 standards are as follows:

Standard Number	Standard Title
1.	Rights of the Child
2.	Environments
3.	Parents & families
4.	Consultation
5.	Interactions
6.	Play
7.	Curriculum
8.	Planning & Evaluation
9.	Health & Welfare
10.	Organisation
11.	Professional Practice
12.	Communication
13.	Transitions
14.	Identity & Belonging
15.	Legislation & Regulation
16.	Community Involvement

Síolta within the context of current national initiatives:

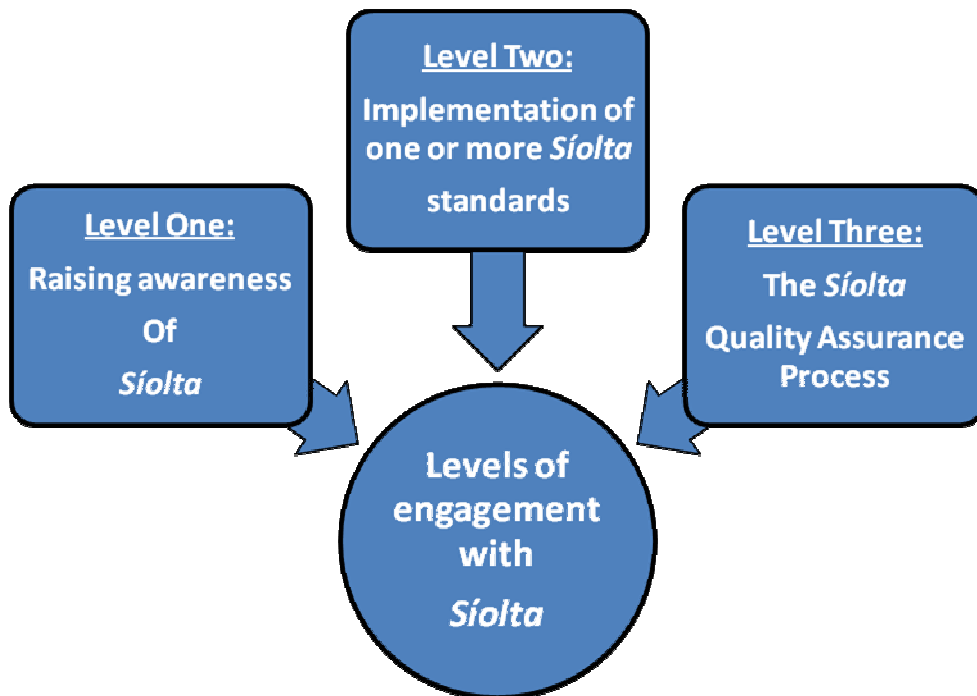
A requirement of the new universal pre-school year scheme (ECCE Scheme) is that participating services adhere to the **principles** of Síolta.

Síolta is also named as a tool to support services in meeting section 5 of the 2006 Pre-School Regulations which states “a person carrying on a pre-school service shall ensure that each child’s learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the service through the provision of the appropriate opportunities, experiences, activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child and the child’s cultural context.”

Síolta implementation in Ballymun:

Early Years Services in Ballymun are among the first nationally to implement Síolta. youngballymun is one of three projects established through the Prevention and Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) jointly supported and resourced by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the Atlantic Philanthropies.

The Síolta Early Years Quality Coordinator began in post in March 2009. Since then ten Early Years groups and services have engaged with the coordinator in relation to Síolta at different levels:



Level Three is the **Síolta Quality Assurance programme** (QAP) where settings must have been assigned a coordinator to support their participation in this. The Síolta QAP comprises of twelve steps over three stages:

- Stage A-Registration
- Stage B-Baseline Assessment, Developmental Work & Portfolio Building
- Stage C-Validation

Five services in Ballymun are currently engaged in the full Quality Assurance Programme.

The role of the coordinator

The role of the coordinator includes:

- Increasing understanding of and confidence with Síolta
- Provision of individualised mentoring advice and support to services
- Supporting services to engage with Síolta at a range of level which is appropriate to their needs and/or resources
- Supporting services through the full quality assurance programme on an individualised way
- Sourcing of and delivery of training/information/resources to support services to implement their action plans.
- Establishing support networks for services
- Supporting and encouraging reflective practice and other skills