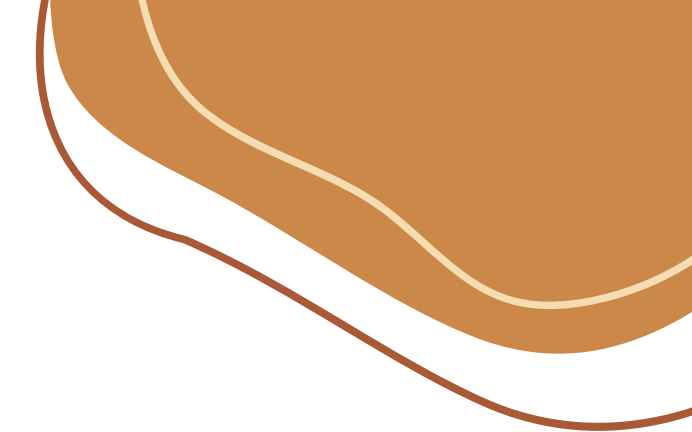
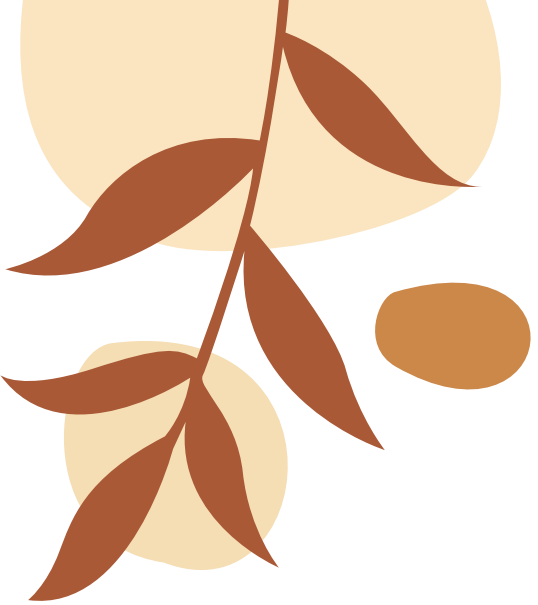


"Quality Environments for Babies and Toddlers: Turning Ideas into Practice"

Kathleen Nugent & Jolene Nig Uidhir





In ONE word, what does a baby or
toddler need most from their
environment?

ASK YOURSELF

**Think of a child you care for, would you
want to spend your day in your room?"**



**Pause,
Take 30 seconds
to imagine life
from this child's
perspective**





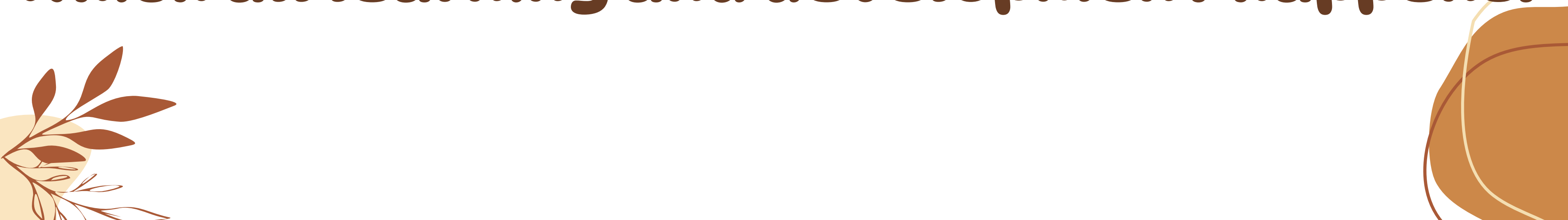
**What's your biggest challenge in
creating a quality environment for
babies and toddlers?**





**A quality environment
requires lots of
resources? True/False**

**"Relationships are at the very heart of
Aistear. They are the foundation through
which all learning and development happens."**



Through a Baby's Eyes

What does a crawling baby notice first?

Sight

Hearing

Touch

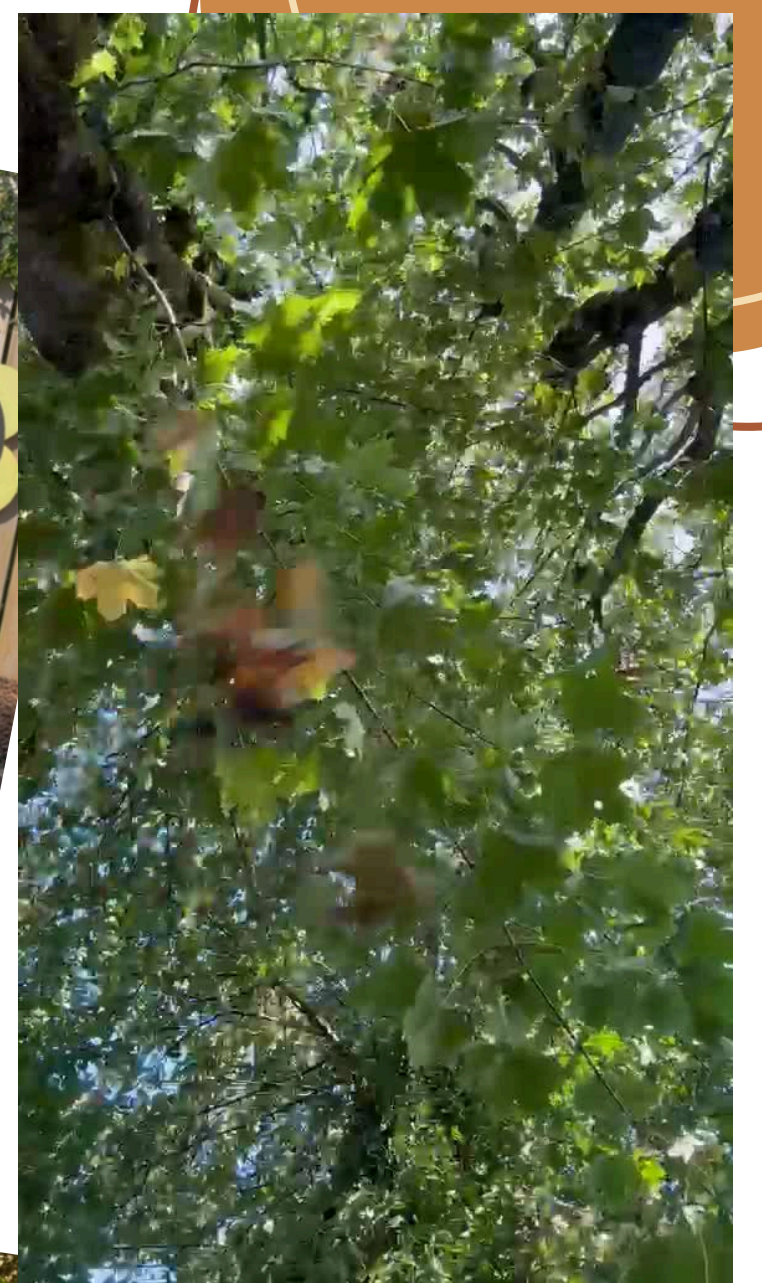
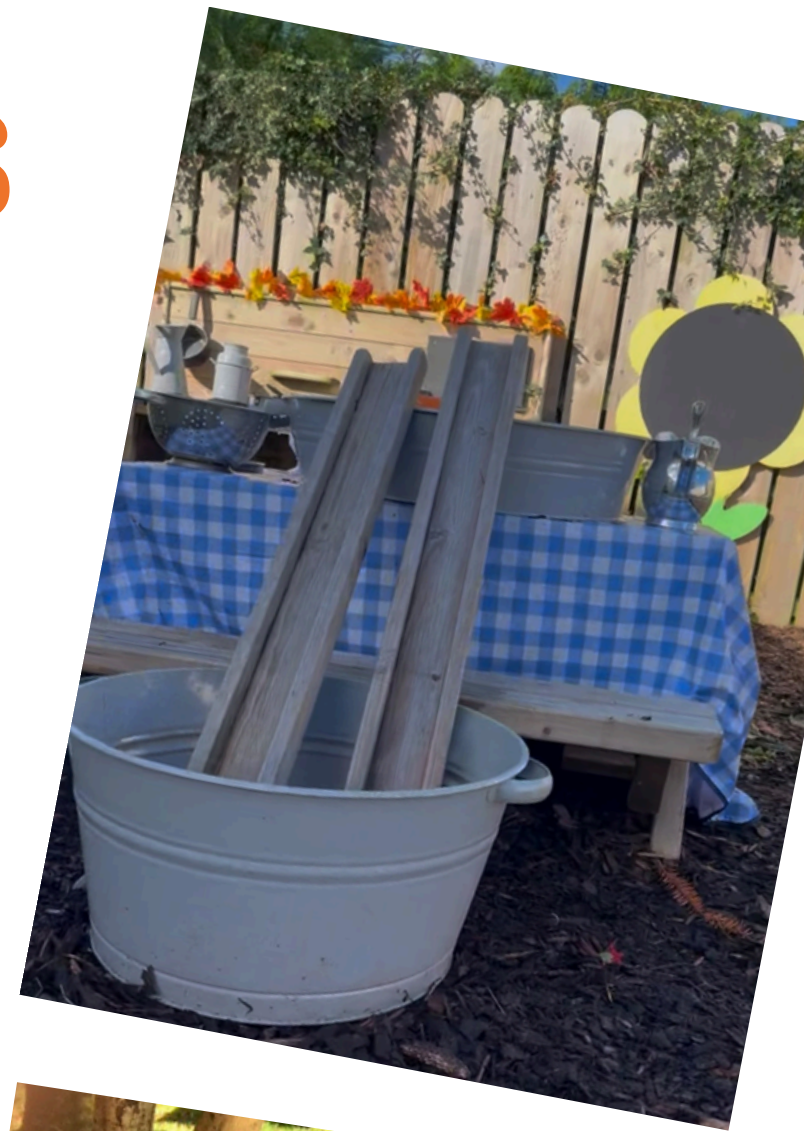


Smell

Taste

Movement

Outdoors



Emoji Audit

Does these spaces promote:
Independence ? Belonging? Curiosity?



👍 = Yes
👎 = No

Spot the Barrier

What is stopping children being independent here ?





Pre school room
Natural light
Heuristic Materials
Familiar photographs
A quiet space
Warm/calming
Alive



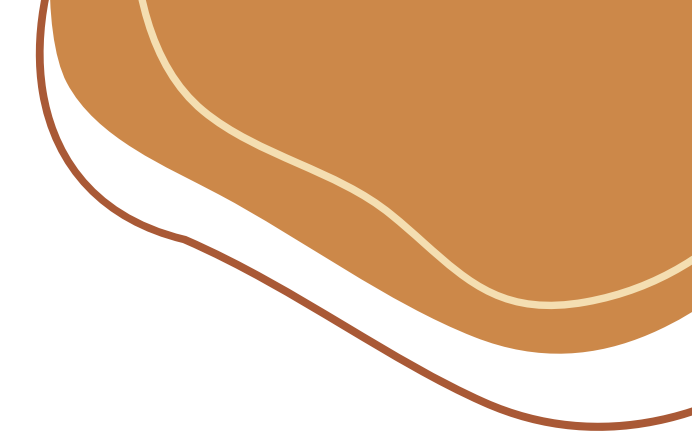
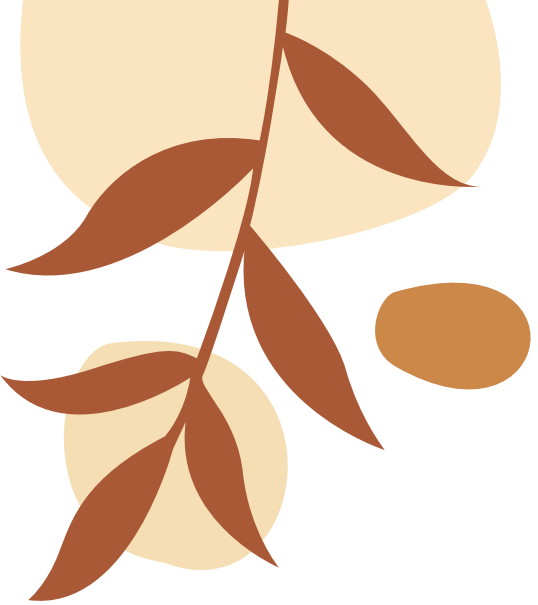
What Would You Change?

**Declutter
the walls**

**Reflective of
every child's
community**

**Create more
space**

**Team
reflection**

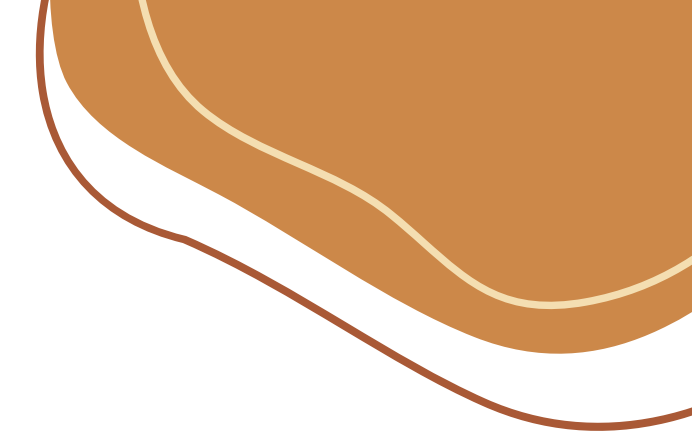
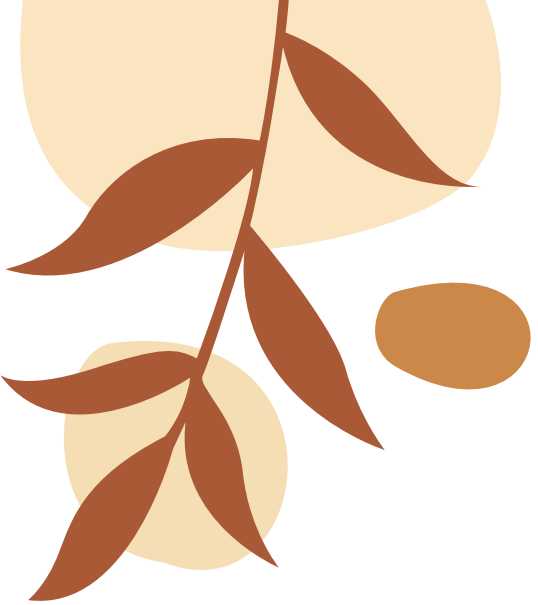


Overcoming Barriers

Keep it simple

Small changes can have big impact

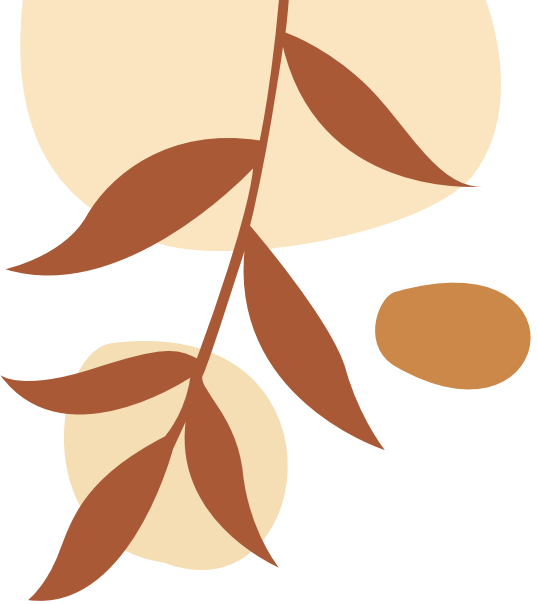




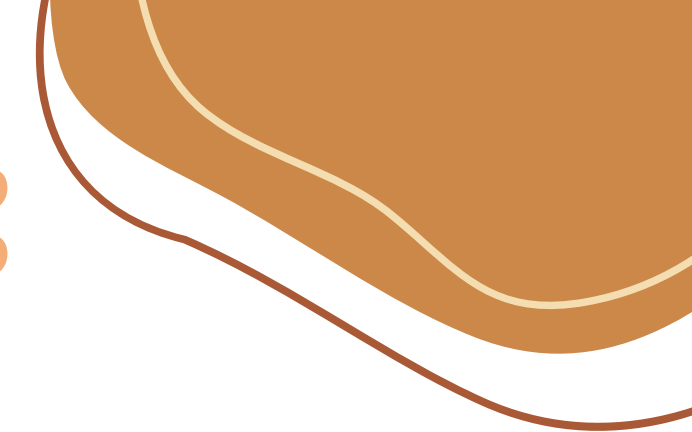
Reflect on your environment

Think about:

- ★ **Belonging**
 - ★ **Comfort**
 - ★ **Independence**
 - ★ **Exploration**
 - ★ **Relationships**
- 
- 



An Audit of you Environment:

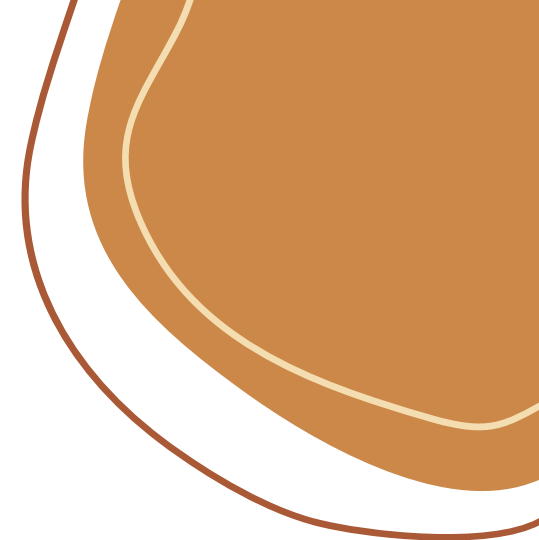


- **Does this environment help children feel they belong?**
 - **Can children make choices independently?**
 - **Does it invite exploration?**
 - **Does it encourage relationships?**
 - **Are there spaces for rest and regulation?**
 - **Is there the same value placed on the outdoor space?**
- 
- 

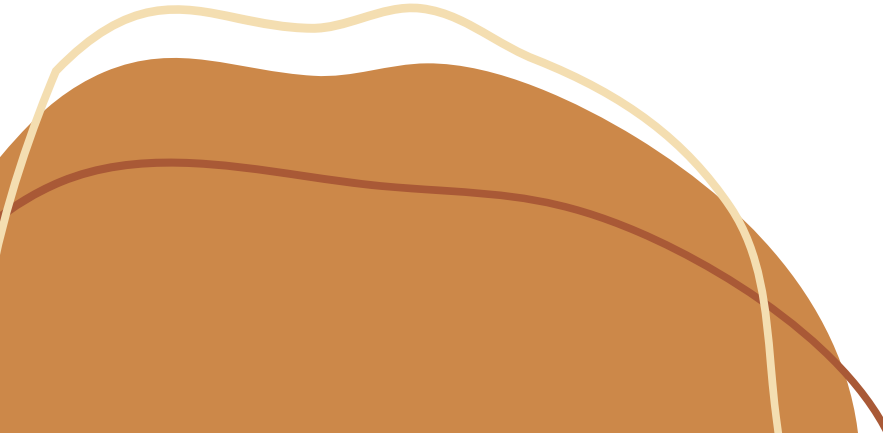
The Monday Morning Challenge

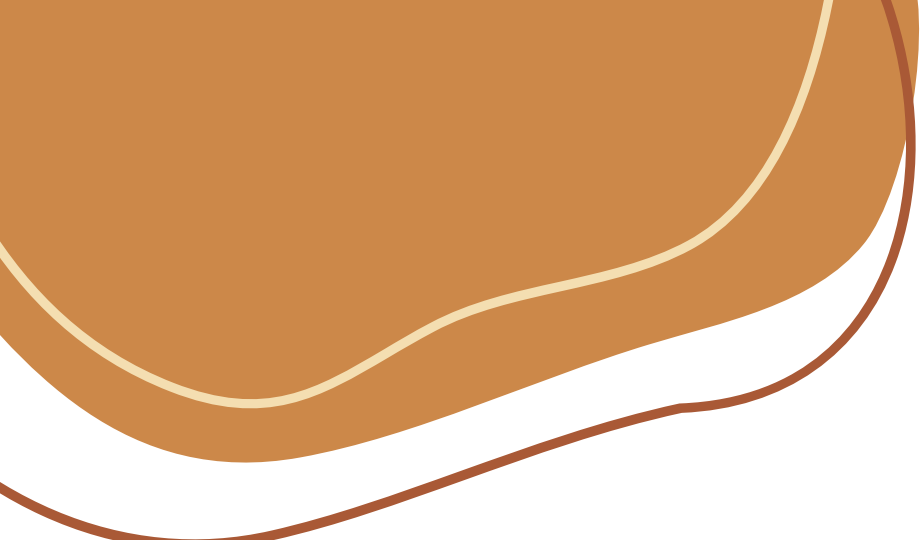
"If you could make ONE change that would improve children's experiences tomorrow, what would it be?"





Reflections/Key take aways

- What does it feel like to be in your setting?
 - How does it feel to be a child within your environment?
 - Is it a calm, tranquil place or loud and chaotic?
 - What can the child see from their vantage point?
 - Are the displays purposeful?
 - Does the space provide opportunities for quiet time, rest or communication and friendly spaces?
 - Is there space for quieter children to retreat to and watch from as secure vantage point?
 - Change does not require a lot of money.
 - REMEMBER...one piece of pie at a time!!
- 
- 



Thank You

Kathleen & Jolene

