

MOTHER EARTH

Protecting Families –
Protecting the Planet



A Development
Education Resource
for Early Childhood

trōcaire

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

About Trócaire's Work in Honduras

Honduras is a Latin American country with a population of 9.3 million. The majority of the population is of mixed Spanish and indigenous descent.



Inequality and injustice are key issues in Honduras today. In rural areas, many large-scale logging, mining and hydroelectric projects are carried out by big businesses, with little regard for national and international laws and agreements. Often in collusion with corrupt government officials, these companies grab land and destroy natural environments which have been home to indigenous communities for many generations.

Trócaire is working with local partner organisations to provide social and legal support for communities who are fighting for their rightful access to land, water and other natural resources.

For more information about Trócaire's work in Honduras, see: trocaire.org/whatwedo/wherewework/honduras

About this Resource

This resource provides an opportunity for young children to explore the theme of 'Mother Earth' in the context of their own lives and the lives of two families in Honduras. Working through six linked Learning Experiences, children will learn about loving, growing, sharing, protecting, exploring and enjoying the gifts of Mother Earth.

The resource supports the aims and principles of *Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework* (ROI) and the *Preschool Stage of CCEA Curriculum* (NI). See diagram on page 3 for more information. Curriculum links are given for each Learning Experience.

Mother Earth

Felicita and Angela, the two mothers featured in this Early Childhood resource, embody the Latin American idea of 'Mother Earth'. Motivated by love for their families, their land and their way of life, they are determined to protect, preserve and celebrate the natural world.

Angela is fighting against a logging company that is destroying the ancient pine forest surrounding her community. Felicita is protesting against a massive hydroelectric plant that will dry up her community's river.

As a woman, as a mother of five children, I have learned a lot, to fight for the defence of our territory. Because our life lies in this forest, it lies in the rivers ... all of our life is here. Mother Earth is the only thing we have. We must take care of it.

Angela (39), mother, farmer, activist. San Francisco Campo, Honduras

| Photo Credit: Simon Burch

To use this resource in your classroom or setting, work through the Learning Experiences set out on the reverse of the six photo cards. We encourage you to integrate the Learning Experiences into existing classroom practices, such as Circle Time. We also invite you to adapt activities to meet the particular learning needs, interests and abilities of the children in your group. Supplementary information, including more photos and links to relevant websites, is available at: trocaire.org/education/motherearth

As you complete each card, follow the instructions on the poster worksheet to complete the enclosed 'Mother Earth' poster. When you complete the poster, we will send certificates to all participating children. See poster worksheet for details. We hope that you enjoy the resource!

MOTHER EARTH AND AISTEAR

Well-being

Children will develop and nurture their sense of wonder and awe about nature. They will act as global citizens, caring for themselves and for the environment.

Identity and Belonging

Children will be able to share personal experiences about their own families and cultures. They will respect and appreciate a diversity of home environments, cultures and backgrounds.



Exploring and Thinking

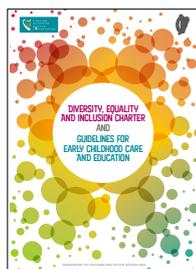
Children will learn to observe and make sense of the natural world around them. They will develop curiosity about distant localities and the people who live there.

Communicating

Children will express themselves creatively and imaginatively in response to the 'Mother Earth' theme, using verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Mother Earth supports the *Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Education and Care* (DCYA, 2016).



The Learning Experiences in this resource will:

- promote positive learning about diversity in terms of ethnicity, culture, language, gender, family and home;
- foster empathy and encourage young children to be comfortable with difference;
- challenge stereotypical images of the Global South and help to build an awareness and appreciation of the wider world.

Global Goals

Mother Earth supports age-appropriate engagement with the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The goals reflect the commitment made by Ireland and nearly two hundred other countries to end poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. For more information on the Global Goals, see: globalgoals.org.



For young children, the seventeen Global Goals can be summarised into three goals framed in terms of basic human needs:



ABOUT TRÓCAIRE

'Trócaire' is the Irish word for compassion. Trócaire was founded in 1973 by the Catholic Bishops of Ireland with two aims:

1. To support people in the wider world who are living in poverty.

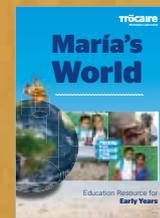
We work with local partners in over twenty countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. We respond to injustice and poverty, offering support in a spirit of solidarity regardless of race, religion, gender or politics.

2. To educate people in Ireland about global justice issues.

Within Ireland, we raise awareness of the root causes of poverty and inequality, and we empower people of all ages to take action for a more just and sustainable world.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM TRÓCAIRE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

For these and other resources, visit:
trocaire.org/education



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Angela and her children in Honduras.
Photo credit: Simon Burch.

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