



# Characteristics of Effective Learning



These are statutory elements of the Early Years Curriculum. They show us the way in which your child learns and how we can move them forward to become independent learners for life. They underpin the 7 areas of learning and represent the process of learning rather than the end result. They also provide a link to the 'Growth Mindset' approach we have to learning in school and encourage reasoning and problem solving.

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'

Use imagination to act out home life and familiar stories, TV shows or watching a digger at work maybe? 'Let's pretend' play.

Make resources to help with play. This box could be a boat or a rocket?

Try things out to see what happens, open ended resources like play dough, sticks, boxes etc. don't limit imagination... and can be free!

- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements

Try activities and games to aid concentration. We use a different set of skills to concentrate on a screen so try jigsaws, drawing, board games and listening walks.

Keep trying, don't always step in to help. It might take longer but allow children to get dressed by themselves as this helps independence. Also, cutting up food or rebuilding a model helps with perseverance. Encourage them to be proud of their achievements and willing to have a go at new things.

- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Use open ended resources and let children explore for themselves.

Talk through a process. Baking together and telling your child why you are doing things helps with the language for this.

Discuss and review. What might be a better way to build the model? Could we put less glue into the mixture when making slime to make it less sticky?

