

# The Characteristics of Effective Learning.

There are certain attributes that all children (and adults!), need to become effective life-long learners. The Characteristics of Effective Learning form a crucial aspect of the Early Years Foundation Stage as it is widely recognised that children benefit enormously from 'learning to learn' at the earliest point possible.

This includes them developing skills such as concentration, resilience, perseverance and curiosity. It also prioritises the ability for children to be self-motivated and engaged – initiating their own play and tasks and demonstrating their own ideas.

During this time that your child is at home you will no doubt be striving to ensure you continue to support their development and provide them with a range of activities.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning Key Questions may help you to think about how well your child is developing as a 'learner' – for instance, if you're spending time in the garden, do they have an idea to make an obstacle course; or are they interested in searching for and collecting snails? Indoors, can they concentrate on



doing a puzzle or can they become engaged in their own idea if given a large piece of paper and some pencils?



All children have their favourite activities during which they will probably demonstrate many of the characteristics consistently. Try to encourage them to try a range of new things too so you can see how well they are able to apply their learning style to different challenges.

Above all else, keep it fun – motivation underpins all learning. If a child doesn't want to engage in an activity then the opportunity for learning is lost straight away. Keep activities short and where possible, try to follow your child's lead and go with their ideas – encourage independence and don't doubt that what they are doing isn't 'real learning'.

***"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."***

Albert Einstein