

Questions to support the interpretation of the Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring	Active Learning
<p><i>Finding out and exploring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What areas or learning experiences are they drawn to? • How is the child engaging in open-ended activities? • How do they use their senses to explore and make sense of their world? • What motivates them? What are they particularly interested in? 	<p><i>Being involved and concentrating</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there times when they are absorbed in their own learning? • Do they keep focused on a self-initiated activity for a long period of time? • Are they concentrating and involved in the experience/ activity without being distracted? • How do they demonstrate a sense of purpose, keenness and vitality? • How are they using their observation skills to notice detail, similarities and differences?
<p><i>Playing with what they know</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In play, how do they draw on experiences from home and their world? • How do they take on roles in pretend play indoors or outdoors? • Do they act out experiences with others or on their own? • How do they transform resources? e.g. rolling up paper to be a telescope. 	<p><i>Keeping on trying (Resilience)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they show persistence – not giving up even if it means starting again? • Do they ask for help / support if they need it? • What strategies do they use to cope with change? Are they able to rebound from disappointments or setbacks? • Do they relish challenges and continually try to make things better?
<p><i>Being willing to have a go (Empowerment)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they eager to try new ideas or do they stay with what they are familiar with? • How do they demonstrate a 'can do' attitude? • Do they take informed risks? Are they adventurous and exploratory, not overly timid? • Are they unafraid to make mistakes and work outside their comfort zone? • Do they show a sense of purpose? • Do they work best with continual support or prefer to get on with activities themselves? 	<p><i>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a sense of satisfaction and pride when they have completed an activity; do they want to show / tell people and celebrate their learning? • Do they see themselves as mastery learners? e.g. understanding and enjoying the process of learning not just the product. • Are they 'intrinsically motivated'- achieving things for themselves (ownership) as opposed to adult praise? • Do they enjoy meeting their own challenges?

Creativity and Critical Thinking	Emotional Well-Being
<p><i>Having their own ideas (Taking Initiative)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they have their own ideas and use their own initiative? • Do they demonstrate curiosity, imagination, spontaneity and innovation? • Do they ask questions (verbally or non-verbally)? • Do they try something different rather than follow what someone else has done? • What strategies do they use to solve problems or challenges in their learning? 	<p><i>Emotional literacy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they have strategies/show emotional resourcefulness to help them cope with a range of emotions? e.g. cuddle. • Do they appear relaxed and open within the setting? • Do they have a growing understanding of the ethos and expectations of the setting and how do they demonstrate this? • Can they respond positively to setbacks or unfamiliar situations?
<p><i>Making links</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they use their previous experience and knowledge to inform their new learning? • Do they talk about or show in their play, how what they are doing links to a previous experience? • Are they able to transfer learning from one experience to another? • Do they try out and repeat their ideas to see if they work? 	<p><i>Connectedness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they beginning to make connections with others? e.g. eye contact, body language, empathy • Do they respond to others? • Do they make secure relationships with special people e.g. key person, peers, main carers? • Do they appear confident in their environment? e.g. know where to put their own things and how to learn within the space and routine.
<p><i>Choosing ways to do things (Independence)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they confident in using a 'trial and error' approach and do they show or talk about why some things do or don't work? • Do they choose different ways of approaching activities and adapt if they are not satisfied? • Do they have a reflective approach to their learning? • Do they challenge and extend their own learning? 	<p><i>Positive self-esteem & self-worth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they at ease with themselves? • Are they able to show kindness to themselves and others? • Are they open and respectful in their interactions with others? • Do they demonstrate fairness and justice? e.g. tidy up what they have been using or helping another who has hurt them self. • Do they have a positive sense of self and show they feel valued by e.g. getting their physical or emotional needs met?