

Characteristics of Effective Learning

A Unique Child: Observing How a Child is Learning

Playing and Exploring Engagement	Active Learning Motivation	Creating and Thinking Critically Thinking
<u>Finding out and exploring</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show curiosity about objects, events and people • Use senses to explore the world around them • Engage in open-ended activity • Show particular interests 	<u>Being involved and concentrating</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain focus on their activity for a period of time • Show high levels of energy and fascination • Not easily distracted • Pay attention to details 	<u>Having their own ideas</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of ideas • Find ways to solve problems • Find new ways to do things
<u>Parent Comments:</u>		
<u>Playing with what they know</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretend objects are things from their experience • Represent their experiences in play • Take on a role in their play • Act out experiences with other people 	<u>Keeping on trying</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persist with an activity when a challenge occurs • Show belief that more effort or different approach will pay off • Bounce back after difficulties 	<u>Making Links</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make links and notice patterns in their experiences • Make predictions • Test their ideas • Develop ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect
<u>Parent Comments:</u>		
<u>Being willing to have a go</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate activities • Seek challenge • Show a 'can do' attitude • Take a risk, engage in new experiences and learn by trial and error 	<u>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show satisfaction in meeting their own goals • Be proud of how they accomplished something - not just the end result • Enjoy meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise 	<u>Choosing ways to do things</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan, make decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal • Check how well their activities are going • Change strategy as needed • Review how well an approach worked
<u>Parent Comments:</u>		

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Playing and Exploring Engagement	Active Learning Motivation	Creating and Thinking Critically Thinking
<p><u>Finding out and exploring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What activities are they drawn to? • Do they prefer to work in a group / alone? • Do they initiate activities themselves or join in an existing one? • Do they think aloud describing what they do? 	<p><u>Being involved and concentrating</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the children keep focused on a self-initiated activity for a long period of time? • Are they concentrating and involved in the activity without being distracted? • Do they show care with what they're doing? • Do they demonstrate concentration through silence or thinking aloud? 	<p><u>Having their own ideas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they try something different? • Do they address a problem with a strategy? • Retaining independence - not asking for support even if it takes longer to achieve the outcome
<p><u>Using what they know in their play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In play do they draw on experiences from home / outside school? • Do they act out situations? • Are they confident in finding tools, materials and resources they need for a particular project or idea? 	<p><u>Keeping on trying</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do children show persistence - not giving up even if it means starting again? • Do they ask for help / support if they need it? • Do they discuss solutions for challenges with peers / adults or work things through themselves? 	<p><u>Using what they already know to learn new things</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they understand patterns and predictability of events? • Talks about / explains how their process links to a previous experience • Do they draw upon knowledge or experiences not immediately related to their activity?
<p><u>Being willing to have a go</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of persistence - do they give up at first hurdle or keep trying? • Are they eager to try new ideas or do they stay with what they are familiar with? • Are they able to talk about / review what they've done if things haven't worked? • Do they work best with continual support or prefer to get on with activities themselves? 	<p><u>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</u></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? • Do they relish challenges and continually try to make things better? • Do they evaluate themselves and try different things as a result? • Are they 'intrinsically motivated'- achieving things for themselves as opposed to adult praise? 	<p><u>Choosing ways to do things and finding new ways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they confident in using a 'trial; and error' approach and talking about why some things do / don't work • Choosing different ways of approaching activities and adapting if it doesn't work