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Characteristics of Effective Learning

In-order for children to learn best, research has shown that they need to develop and learn certain traits. These traits are known in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework as the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

**What are the Characteristics of Effective Learning?**

The Characteristics of Effective learning are all about ***how*** children learn. They are broken down into three characteristics:

**Playing and Exploring – Engagement**

Finding out and exploring

Playing with what they know

Being willing to ‘have a go’

**Active Learning – Motivation**

Being involved and concentrating

Keeping trying

Enjoying and achieving what they set out to do

**Creating and Thinking Critically – Thinking**

Having their own ideas

Making links

Choosing ways to do things

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Talk to your child about it being ok if you cannot achieve what you set out to do. Teach your child how to problem solve by asking them open questions. E.g. ‘What can you do now?’

Encourage your child to have a ‘can do’ attitude to new things, be positive with your child, giving specific praise and encouragement. Praise them for the effort involved, not just the end result.

**Ways to Support Your Child’s Characteristics of Effective Learning**



Be a role model and show your child you are interested in learning about things too. Learn together! Follow your child’s interests, if they enjoy something, encourage it further. This will develop their concentration skills.

At first set your child tasks that are simple, this will boost their confidence. Once they enjoy a challenge, set the aims higher and encourage them to take risks. Encourage your child to talk through what they are doing or making. Let them know it’s ok to change their plans and modify something.

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