Characteristics of Effective Learning

Children are born ready, able and eager to learn. They actively reach out to interact with other people, and in the world around them. Development is not an automatic process, however. It depends on each unique child having opportunities to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments.

The four themes of the EYFS underpin all the guidance. This document - Development Matters - shows how these themes, and the principles that inform them, work together for children in the EYFS.

Themes

A Unique Child Positive Relationships Enabling Environments Learning and Development

Principles

Practice

Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Practitioners

- understand and observe each child's development and learning, assess progress, plan for next steps
- support babies and children to develop a positive sense of their own identity and culture
- identify any need for additional support
- keep children safe
- value and respect all children and families equally

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Positive relationships are

- warm and loving, and foster a sense of belonging
- sensitive and responsive to the child's needs, feelings and interests
- supportive of the child's own efforts and independence
- consistent in setting clear boundaries
- stimulating
- built on key person relationships in early years settings

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.

Enabling Environments

- value all people
- value learning

They offer

- stimulating resources, relevant to all the children's cultures and communities
- rich learning opportunities through play and playful teaching
- support for children to take risks and explore

Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Practitioners teach children by ensuring challenging, playful opportunities across the prime and specific areas of learning and simplement

They foster the characteristics of effective early learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- · Creating and thinking critically

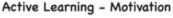




Playing and Exploring - Engagement



- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what I know
- Being willing to 'have a go'





- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying achieving what I set out to do





- Having my own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things







