



Characteristics of Effective Learning – How Children Learn

in the EYFS at Ryton Federation we pay particular attention to the children as learners and strive to help them develop the following characteristics through both adult-led and child-led learning.

<p><u>Playing and Exploring</u> <u>(engagement)</u></p>	<p><u>Active Learning</u> <u>(motivation)</u></p>	<p><u>Thinking Creatively and Critically</u> <u>(thinking)</u></p>
<p><u>Finding out and exploring:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing curiosity about objects, events and people • Using senses to explore the world around them • Engaging in open-ended activity • Showing particular interests <p><u>Playing with what they know:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretending objects are things from their experience • Representing their experiences in play • Taking on a role in their play • Acting out experiences with other people <p><u>Being willing to 'have a go':</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiating activities • Seeking challenge • Showing a 'can do' attitude • Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error 	<p><u>Being involved and concentrating:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing a deep drive to know more about people and their world • Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time. • Showing high levels of involvement, energy and fascination • Not easily distracted • Paying attention to details <p><u>Keeping on trying:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persisting with an activity or toward their goal when challenges occur • Showing a belief more effort or a different approach will pay off, and that their skills can grow and develop (growth mindset) • Bouncing back after difficulties <p><u>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals (I can!) • Being proud of how they accomplished something - not just the end result • Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise (intrinsic motivation) 	<p><u>Having their own ideas (creative thinking):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking of ideas that are new and meaningful to the child. • Playing with possibilities (what if? what else?) • Visualising and imagining options • Finding new ways to do things <p><u>Making links:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making links and noticing patterns in their experience • Making predictions • Testing their ideas • Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect <p><u>Choosing ways to do things:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, making decisions and how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal • Checking how well their activities are going • Flexibly changing strategy as needed • Reviewing how well the approach worked