



# Characteristics of Effective Learning

(from: Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage)

## **Playing and Exploring – *engagement***

### **Finding out and exploring**

- Showing curiosity about objects, events and people
- Using senses to explore the world around them
- Engaging in open-ended activity
- Showing particular interests

### **Playing with what they know**

- 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

### **Being willing to ‘have a go’**

- Initiating activities
- Seeking challenge
- Showing a ‘can do’ attitude
- Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error

## **Active Learning – *motivation***

### **Being involved and concentrating**

- Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time
- Showing high levels of energy, fascination
- Not easily distracted
- Paying attention to details

### **Keeping on trying**

- Persisting with activity when challenges occur
- Showing a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off
- Bouncing back after difficulties

### **Enjoying achieving what they set out to do**

- Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals
- 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

## **Creating and Thinking Critically – *thinking***

### **Having their own ideas**

- Thinking of ideas
- Finding ways to solve problems
- Finding new ways to do things

### **Making links**

- Making links and noticing patterns in their experience
- Making predictions
- Testing their ideas
- Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect

### **Choosing ways to do things**

- Planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal
- Checking how well their activities are going
- Changing strategy as needed
- Reviewing how well the approach worked