

The characteristics of learning



The statutory framework, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) states that we must observe children's learning characteristics and use them to support children's ongoing learning.

There are 3 learning characteristics identified in the EYFS and they refer to how the child learns, rather than what the child knows and can do.

Playing and exploring – The child's engagement with their learning:

**The EYFS states that children who are engaged investigate and experience things; they 'have a go' at doing new things.

To support the child's engagement, we will encourage them to try new things and try, without fear of getting it wrong.

Active learning – The child's motivation to learn:

**The EYFS states that children who are motivated concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties; they enjoy their achievements.

To help the child be motivated to learn, we will watch and listen to the child's play and think about how the learning characteristics can help us to support their learning, by providing activities we know they will enjoy. We will ask for updates about what the child enjoys doing at home.

Creating and thinking critically – How the child thinks:

**The EYFS states that when children are thinking, they have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

To help the child think creatively and in lots of different ways, we challenge what they know and can do, and we provide lots of fun activities for them to enjoy.

If you would like to find out more about the characteristics of effective teaching and learning and how they help us to support children's early learning experiences, please ask and we will provide you with more information. Thank you.