



Bursley Academy

EYFS Newsletter

31/10/16

www.bursley.staffs.sch.uk



Characteristics of Effective Learning

To enable a child to become an effective learner; the Early Years Foundation Stage identifies three inter-changeable characteristics which help children to learn. Being aware of these characteristics enables the adult to support and extend a child's learning whilst the child is involved in an activity or at play. The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the prime and specific areas of learning are all interconnected. They should also underpin everything that practitioners offer in the environment. The characteristics describe how a child learns.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning:

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 on trying
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically

- having their own ideas
- making links
- choosing ways to do things and finding new ways

Play and Exploring

It is important that the environment actively encourages and offers children the opportunity to play and explore. Children need to be able to explore in every area of the provision. Within these areas, there needs to be opportunities for children to explore and investigate using open-ended resources. Children need to be able to use their imagination and explore their surroundings.

- Play with children. Encourage them to explore, and show your own interest in discovering new things.
- Help children as needed to do what they are trying to do, without taking over or directing.
- Join in play sensitively, fitting in with children's ideas.
- Model pretending an object is something else, and help develop roles and stories.
- Encourage children to try new activities and to judge risks for themselves. Be sure to support children's confidence with words and body language.
- Pay attention to how children engage in activities the challenges faced, the effort, thought, learning and enjoyment. Talk more about the process than products.
- Talk about how you and the children get better at things through effort and practice, and what we all can learn when things go wrong.

Characteristics of Effective Learning continued

Active learning

Children demonstrate active learning when engaging in activities that require them to use their mental abilities. For example, children will show a can-do attitude when attempting to do a task, they will show a great deal of concentration and will rarely give up on the task. Children are more interested in attempting a task if it is of interest to them. Therefore, adults should tune into children's interests. Creating an environment that is led by children's interest will encourage children to become active learners. It will also help practitioners identify and plan the children's next steps.

- Support children to choose their activities – what they want to do and how they will do it.
- Stimulate children's interest through shared attention, and calm over-stimulated children.
- Help children to become aware of their own goals, make plans, and to review their own progress and successes. Describe what you see them trying to do, and encourage children to talk about their own processes and successes.
- Be specific when you praise, especially noting effort such as how the child concentrates, tries different approaches, persists, solves problems, and has new ideas.
- Encourage children to learn together and from each other.
- Children develop their own motivations when you give reasons and talk about learning, rather than just directing.

Creating and thinking critically

For children to be creative and critically think, children need to be provided with lots of opportunities to work things out on their own or with others; this will develop their problem solving skills. As we know young children observe what is happening around them and they absorb the information. As children begin to engage fully in activities, they will start asking questions about how things work.

- Use the language of thinking and learning: think, know, remember, forget, idea, makes sense, plan, learn, find out, confused, figure out, trying to do.
 - Model being a thinker, showing that you don't always know, are curious and sometimes puzzled, and can think and find out.
 - Encourage open-ended thinking by not settling on the first ideas: What else is possible?
 - Always respect children's efforts and ideas, so they feel safe to take a risk with a new idea.
 - Talking aloud helps children to think and control what they do. Model self-talk, describing your actions in play.
 - Give children time to talk and think. Model the plan-do-review process yourself.
 - Value questions, talk, and many possible responses, without rushing toward answers too quickly.
 - Support children's interests over time, reminding them of previous approaches and encouraging them to make connections between their experiences.
 - Model the creative process, showing your thinking about some of the many possible ways forward.
 - Sustained shared thinking helps children to explore ideas and make links. Follow children's lead in conversation, and think about things together.
 - Encourage children to describe problems they encounter, and to suggest ways to solve the problem.
 - Show and talk about strategies – how to do things – including problem-solving, thinking and learning.
 - Give feedback and help children to review their own progress and learning. Talk with children about what they are doing, how they plan to do it, what worked well and what they would change next time.
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Dates for your Diary

Topic: Bonfire Night and People Who Help Us

During our first week back we will be learning all about the Gunpowder Plot and Bonfire Night. We will also be thinking about Fire Safety, the following week we will go on to learn about People Who Help us, focusing on lots of different occupations, such as Firefighters, Paramedics, Doctors and Nurses, Dentists, Teachers etc etc. During this topic we will be thinking about what we need to keep our bodies healthy.

If any parents would like to come in to school to talk to the children about their job and how they help other people please speak to a member of the EYFS Team.



Cake sale Tuesday 31st October.

Please bring in home made/ shop bought cakes and some money to spend!

Disco Wednesday 1st November. Feel free to dress up!

Ladies night Thursday 9th November.

Tickets on sale. Tables £10, some still left if anyone knows anyone who would be interested in having a stall, please let Sue Dodd (Chairperson) know.

Christmas fayre Friday 24th November.

We welcome your donations in the run up to this event



Learning Logs EYFS

Our homework policy has changed throughout the whole school, some of you may be aware of this if you have older children in school. To keep in line with the rest of the school EYFS too are going to have Learning Logs.

In EYFS our learning logs are a personal learning diary for the children. In the learning logs, the children record their responses to the teaching and learning that is happening in our classrooms. Each log is a unique record of the child's thinking and learning.

Each topic; the children will bring home a learning menu of take-home learning tasks to reflect their learning in class. The menu will offer a selection of open-ended and often practical activities for the children to choose from. These will need to be recorded in the children's learning log book. Some examples of the type of thing we are looking for, are attached to this letter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team.

Learning Book

Some parents still haven't logged on to their child's learning book. Can we ask that all parents fill in their child's front page by clicking on the small blue pencil. Thank you

NURSERY PARENTS

Important information. Admission into Reception Class Sept 2018

The online application service will open on **1st Nov 2017** and the closing date for you to make your application is **15th January 2018**. The best way for you to make your application is to apply online at www.staffordshire.gov/admissions.

Miss Simpson and all of the Foundation Stage Team :-)