

# Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing & Exploring: Engagement		
Finding out and exploring	Playing with what they know	Being willing to 'have a go'
Shows curiosity about objects, events and people	Pretending objects are things from their experience	Initiating activities
Uses senses to explore the world around them	Representing their experiences in play	Seeking challenge
Engages in open-ended activity	Taking on a role in their play	Showing a 'can do' attitude
Shows particular interests	Acting out experiences with other people	Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error

Active Learning: Motivation		
Being involved and concentrating	Keeping on trying	Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time	Persisting with activity when challenges occur	Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals
Showing high levels of energy, fascination	Showing a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off	Being proud of how they accomplished something – not just the end result
Not easily distracted	Bouncing back after difficulties	Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise
Paying attention to details		

Creating and Thinking Critically: Thinking		
Having their own ideas	Making links	Choosing ways to do things
Thinking of ideas	Making links and noticing patterns in their experience	Planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal
Finding ways to solve problems	Making predictions	Checking how well their activities are going
Finding new ways to do things	Testing their ideas	Changing strategy as needed