

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the prime and specific Areas of Learning and Development are all interconnected.

The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment - playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically - underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

- The prime areas begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences, and run through and support learning in all other areas. The prime areas continue to be fundamental throughout the EYFS.

- The specific areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas, and provide important contexts for learning.

Prime areas are fundamental, work together, and move through to support development in all other areas.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific areas include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Characteristics of effective learning

The Unique Child reaches out to relate to people and things through the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which move through all areas of learning.

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically

How we promote the Characteristics of effective learning with the children

In the classroom we have three dinosaurs, the 'Explorosaurus', the 'Thinkosaurus' and the 'Tryosaurus'. When the children are using their characteristics of effective learning we will point this out to them and to the class and let them play with the dinosaur that represents this characteristic.

Explorosaurus- playing and exploring

Thinkosaurus- creating and thinking critically

Tryosaurus- active learning



'Explorosaurus'

- They love finding out and exploring.
- They like to act out experiences with others.
- They have a 'can do' attitude.
- They take risks in their learning and when something doesn't work out they try a different way.
- They love a challenge!



'Tryosaurus'

- They are not easily distracted.
- They spend a long time concentrating.
- They show lots of interest in what they are doing and pay very close attention to the details.
- They enjoy achieving what they have set out to do.
- They keep on trying and never give up (even when they find something tricky, they find another way)!



'Thinkosaurus'

- They have their own ideas.
- They find ways to solve problems.
- They make predictions.
- They test out their ideas.
- They think carefully about how they are going to approach an activity.
- They think about how well their activity is going and they change their way if something isn't working.

