

# Characteristics of Effective Learning

## ENGAGEMENT

### Playing and Exploring

#### 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
- 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

## MOTIVATION

### Active Learning

#### 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 detail

#### 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

## THINKING

### Creative and Critical 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 experiences
- 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