Teaching and Learning

Let's reflect – The Characteristics of Effective Learning

'The Characteristics of Effective Learning describe behaviours children use in order to learn**.** To learn well, children must approach opportunities with curiosity, energy, and enthusiasm. Effective learning must be meaningful to a child, so that they are able to use what they have learned and apply it in new situations. These abilities and attitudes of strong learners will support them to learn well and make good progress in all the Areas of Learning and Development'.

Birth to 5 Matters

What are the Characteristics of Effective Learning?

- Playing and exploring – Engagement: finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and be willing to have a go.
- Active learning – Motivation: being involved and concentrating, keep trying and enjoying achieving what they set out to do.
- Creating and thinking critically – Thinking: having their own ideas, making links, and working with ideas.

Task

Consider the questions below and reflect on how you can further develop your knowledge and understanding of the Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- How familiar are staff with the characteristics of effective learning?
- Are they reflected in your curriculum planning?
- Are staff able to recognise children's characteristics of effective learning?
- Do staff encourage children to explore the world around them?
- Do you offer open ended resources?
- Do staff recognise and value the reason and thinking behind children's decisions?
- Do you extend children's interests and fascinations?
- Do you introduce children to new experiences, resources, and opportunities?
- Do you involve children in making decisions?
- Are children provided with opportunities to explore and investigate, both indoors and out?
- Are staff able to reflect with children on their learning?
- Do staff support children to problem solve and to seek support from others when needed?
- Are staff skilled at supporting children to develop their thinking through sustained discussion?
- Do staff engage in any CPD opportunities to develop their understanding of CoEL?