

Good learners are creative and think critically. It's about:

Having their own ideas – thinking of what to do and how to do it. Finding new ways to do something or how to solve a problem like when a puzzle piece doesn't fit in the space.

Making links – noticing patterns all around them, like 'there's a cup like ours' or making predictions about what might happen, 'if we put that brick on top it will topple over' and cause and effect, 'if I press this button, something happens...'

Choosing ways to do things – deciding for themselves how to do something and thinking about what to do. It's also when children review what they have done or realise something didn't work very well and think about how to improve it next time.

What are children learning through play?



Within early years we often talk about how children learn through play. What does this mean and what are they learning?

Good learners learn through playing and exploring. It's about:

Finding out and exploring - showing curiosity and interest in things, using their senses and playing with open ended materials like cardboard boxes and large pieces of material.

Playing with what they know – pretending and role-playing, like using a wooden brick as a mobile phone, or dressing up as a pirate or doctor or fairy! It's using their imagination and telling stories.

Being willing to 'have a go' – when children have a 'can do' attitude and learn through trial and error. It's when they want to be independent, including challenging themselves and taking some risks. Having a go at climbing a tree or balancing on a wall.

Good learners are motivated to learn. It's about:

Being involved and concentrating – concentrating on something they have chosen to do and not being easily distracted. It's when they are fascinated by things and pay attention to detail, they might even concentrate so hard that they stick their tongue out!

Keeping trying – persevering and persisting even if something is difficult. Perhaps they might change the way they do something to try a different approach, like when a jigsaw piece doesn't fit one way, they turn it round.

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do – being proud of what they have achieved. Showing you their pictures and models or asking you to watch them balance or climb.