

Characteristics of Effective Learning in the EYFS

Characteristic	What It Looks Like	Examples in Practice
Playing and Exploring	Children are curious, try new things, and explore the world around them.	- Exploring sand, water, or clay with hands- Trying out new toys or activities- Asking questions about objects or events
Active Learning	Children stay focused, persist with tasks, and enjoy achieving goals.	- Completing a puzzle despite difficulty- Practising writing letters repeatedly- Showing excitement when finishing a drawing or model
Creating and Thinking Critically	Children have their own ideas, solve problems, and make choices.	- Building a tower in different ways- Trying a new approach when a game doesn't work- Linking stories or experiences to new activities