



Halwill Primary

Characteristics of Effective Learning - A Parent's Guide

Active Learning Motivation



Creating and Thinking Critically Thinking



Playing and Exploring Engagement



Dear Parents and Carers,

Characteristics of Effective Learning (CoEL)

A child's individual learning characteristic will determine the way they respond to both the teaching and learning taking place in the environment. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning identified by the EYFS are:

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements; and
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

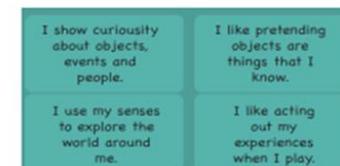
The focus of the CoEL is on how children learn rather than what they learn.

Underpinning the CoEL is the understanding that during their earliest years, children form attitudes about learning that will last a lifetime. Children who receive the right sort of support and encouragement during these years will be creative, and adventurous learners throughout their lives. The environment provided needs to nurture these CoELs without forgetting that children are individuals who bring their own needs, talents and histories.

This term we are focusing on ***Playing and Exploring*** and our observations of your child will include a particular focus on this aspect of CoEL. Stickers in their learning journey will also identify particular attributes of the characteristic that we have seen.

How can you help?

On the back of this guide is a hexagonal image that looks at the three main areas of ***Playing and Exploring***, namely, '***Willing to have a go***', '***Playing with what I know***' and '***Finding out and exploring***' with some statements in *child speak* to help understanding. For example, your child might show a curiosity about objects, events and people, or use their senses to explore the world around them, engage in open-ended activity or show particular interests. They may also pretend objects are things from their experience and represent them in their play, e.g. *using an experience of visiting the doctor, a child may use a funnel, placing it their ear and on a teddy's chest and tell you that they are "listening to teddy, he is sick"*.



Can you please use the 'WOW' cards to let us know of any observations you have made of playing and exploring at home?

Next term we will send home the hexagonal image for ***Active Learning*** and in the Summer Term, ***Creating and thinking critically***. It will help us a build a picture of your unique child. Thank you for your support. 😊