

Home learning ideas

Services for Young Children – Issue 11

This is a guide to help and support you as parents and carers with providing your children with fun experiences in the home and garden.

We will aim to refresh this on a regular basis to help you keep young minds busy and bodies active.

While we will do our best to verify all the websites which we share, information is changing rapidly so please be aware that it is only accurate at the time of writing.



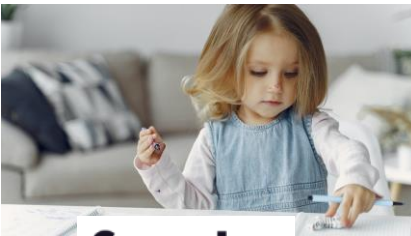
How do children learn?

When we think of school, pre-school and childminder settings, it is easy to think about being taught to read, write and understand maths. But alongside these are other skills and knowledge that children can develop and practice that will help them to learn. In schools, pre-schools and childminder settings, these skills are referred to as the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' and they simply describe the way children learn.

This home learning edition will explore these skills that are grouped under the title of **Active Learning**.

Sue Allingham explains this in more detail.

[Family website- Characteristics of effective learning.](#)



family.

Active Learning You will have noticed how your child will become more engaged in activities that interest them. You will have seen that this helps them concentrate and enjoy their achievements.

These words describe some of the skills children are learning through Active Learning

Fascinated Persisting
Challenges Satisfied Motivated
Proud Concentrating Involved
Attention Trying Effort Process

Some schools create characters to help the children connect with the characteristics – here is a dinosaur called a 'Try-a-tops'. Ask your child what they use at their school or setting.



Active Learning



Make models with your child, but don't always focus on the final model, enjoy the process of making and share ideas as you go along.

Talk about what you are doing as you work.

- "I like the way you have put the red brick on top of the blue brick"
- I wonder where we could put the other blue brick?"

Encourage your child to stick at it and try other ways if the first way doesn't work.

Adventurous stories

Share books based on your child's interests and gather small props together. If you share these stories with your child and show them how interested you are this will encourage fascination. Your child may want to create new stories using the props.



Gather props to go with the stories or have a go at making your own.
Use lolly sticks and pictures, or cardboard tubes and boxes.

Nature treasure hunts, a bug hunt or a nature search.

Encourage your child to be interested and fascinated for longer by giving them a list of things to hunt for. Encourage them to

- choose a theme for the hunt.
- choose where to hunt, at home, on a walk or on a trip out.

Make your own list or print one from the internet. [Scavenger hunt ideas](#)



Games for several players are a great way to improve...

- ...concentration
- ...enthusiasm
- ...turn taking.



Make magnifying glasses or binoculars to look through. Here is a link to show you how to make [cardboard tube binoculars](#).

Active Learning

Moving out of your comfort zone can be exciting but can be tricky too.

Try the "Hard Thing Rule", this encourages your child to

- keep trying
- 'bounce back' when things go wrong, be resilient
- develop self-belief and self-esteem.



Hard things to try will be different for everybody. It can be

- eating all my yoghurt with a spoon
- riding a balance bike, or scooter, to the park
- hopping on one foot
- telling a story using the pictures.



Imaginative building

Using unusual things will create an exciting challenge with lots of problems to work through and overcome.

Objects such as these will provide building opportunities;

- plastic bottles
- plastic pipe
- pieces of wood
- short sticks
- pieces of fabric
- cardboard.



Help your child become a 'Stick-a-saurus Rex' by finding things they are interested in.



Supporting your child to be a 'Have-a-go-a-dactyl' will help develop belief in themselves.



The two-minute challenge. See who can carry out the challenge, race with your child.

Post the most shapes through the hole?

Take the most steps?

Make up different challenges linked to your child's interests.

Active Learning



Target games

A fun way to help your child to keep on trying and persevere.

Here are some ideas;

- plastic cups and water pistols.
- bean bags (or rolled up socks) to throw into an upturned umbrella.
- draw a circle on the floor/wall and bounce a ball.



Jigsaw puzzles will encourage your child to persist and keep trying at an activity.

Can you complete the puzzle with a treasure hunt to find the pieces?

Can you complete all the middle bits before the edges?

Have a go at making your own puzzle. Vary the number of pieces according to your child's skill level, try making it a little tricky.

[Christmas card jig-saw puzzles.](#)



Sit on the ground facing each other with your legs open in front of you so they are touching, creating a barrier for the ball. Roll the ball back and forth to encourage your child to feel confident to have a go.

Can you catch it? Move apart, can you still catch it?

Can you roll it all the way to each other?

Lie on your tummy and see if can you push the ball to the other person?

Is it easier with a small or large ball?



Please supervise your child with keys and locks at all times.



How about letting your child play with a set of keys and some matching padlocks? Attach a toy to the padlock for your child to release. Offering a challenge like this will encourage them to keep trying.

For younger children toys that encourage choice are good to encourage challenge too. Toys such as;

plastic keys to open a box

stacking toys that need to stack in a specific order

find different sized boxes and then find a toy to fit in it and make a train!



Go For It Gorilla
I can have a go.

Working Parrot
I can keep on trying.

Active Learning

You can just watch how your child explores and add in simple words to describe items, use phrases such as “oooo, that’s shiny”

“that brush has soft bristles”

“the keys feel cold”

Your child may repeat your words or use their own.



TOP TIP...to support your child with language development. Repeat what they say and add one word.

Child: “car”

Adult: “blue car”

With your child put together a small collection of interesting objects to explore. For example;

- an old bunch of keys
- different brushes
- small pieces of different fabrics
- an interesting bowl, or cooking utensil.

This activity becomes interesting when you talk to your child about why they find the different objects interesting.

Praise the process and the effort

I am proud
of you for...

I like the way
you...

You tried really
hard to...



Having a sense of
pride and satisfaction
will make any
‘Proudapod’ want to
learn more.

Try to make daily chores fun. Your child will feel happy completing a task by themselves!

- Have a bed making race
- Who can match up the most pairs of socks?
(Here is a link to a [sock matching game](#) you can play.)



Your child will be excited to make up their own games, have a go at...

Using chalks to draw a simple activity course outside.

Here is a link to some simple games and toys to make for a friend or a family member - [home-made toys for younger children](#). Your child will feel really proud with what they have made.

