

Playing & Exploring

Play with children. Encourage them to explore and show your own interest in discovering new things.

Provide stimulating resources which are accessible and open-ended so they can be used, moved and combined in a variety of ways.

Plan first-hand experiences and challenges appropriate to the development of the children.



**Children investigate
and experience
things, and ‘have a
go’**

Always respect children’s efforts and ideas, so they feel safe to take a risk with a new idea and feel comfortable with mistakes.

Ensure children have uninterrupted time to play and explore.

Encourage children to try new activities and to judge risks for themselves. Be sure to support children’s confidence with words and body language, and by introducing tools so that children can think about how to use them safely.

Active Learning

Supporting emotional resilience in the face of challenge, e.g. “That must have been frustrating after you worked so hard. I wonder how else you could try it.”

Make space and time for all children to contribute.

Encourage children to listen to each other’s ideas as they play, have fun and think and learn together. Provide opportunities for children to celebrate with their peers what they are doing and learning – not just focus on the end result.



Children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements

Support children to look into what they are curious about and what fascinates them.

A familiar environment and predictable routine gives children confidence to take charge of their own activities.

Notice what arouses children’s curiosity, looking for signs of deep involvement to identify learning that is intrinsically motivated.

Creating & Thinking Critically

Model being a thinker, showing that you don't always know, are curious and sometimes puzzled, and can think and find out. I wonder?

Value questions, talk, and many possible responses, without rushing toward answers too quickly

Provide opportunity for children to find their own ways to represent and develop their own ideas



Children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

Keep significant activities out instead of routinely tidying them away, so that there are opportunities to revisit what they have been doing to explore possible further lines of enquiry.

Establish the enabling conditions for rich play: space, time, flexible resources, choice, control, warm and supportive relationships.

Show and talk about strategies – how to do things – including problem-solving, thinking and learning.