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| **Playing and Exploring** | **Active Learning** | **Creating and thinking critically** |
| Finding out and exploring   * What areas / activities are they drawn to? * Do they prefer to work in a group / alone? * Do they initiate activities themselves or join in an existing one with a group? * Do they think aloud describing what they do? | Being involved and concentrating   * Do the children keep focused on a self-initiated activity for a long period of time? * Are they concentrating and involved in the activity without being distracted? * Do they show care with what they’re doing? * Do they demonstrate concentration through silence or thinking aloud? | Having their own ideas   * Do they try something different rather than follow what someone else has done? * Do they address a problem with a strategy? * Retaining independence – not asking for support even if it takes longer to achieve the outcome |
| Using what they know in their play   * In play do they draw on experiences from home / outside school? * Do they act out situations in the role play area? * Are they confident in finding tools, materials and resources they need for a particular project or idea? | Keeping on trying   * Do children show persistence – not giving up even if it means starting again? * Do they ask for help / support if they need it? * Do they discuss solutions for challenges with peers / adults or work things through themselves? | Using what they already know to learn new things   * Do they understand patterns and predictability of events? * Talks about / explains how their process links to a previous experience * Do they draw upon knowledge or experiences not immediately related to their activity? |
| Being willing to have a go   * Levels of persistence – do they give up at first hurdle or keep trying? * Are they eager to try new ideas or do they stay with what they are familiar with? * Are they able to talk about / review what they’ve done if things haven’t worked? * Do they work best with continual support or prefer to get on with activities themselves? | Enjoying achieving what they set out to do   * Is there a sense of satisfaction and pride when they have completed an activity; do they want to show / tell people? * Do they relish challenges and continually try to make things better? * Do they evaluate themselves and try different things as a result? * Are they ‘intrinsically motivated’- achieving things for themselves as opposed to adult praise? | Choosing ways to do things and finding new ways   * Are they confident in using a ‘trial; and error’ approach and talking about why some things do / don’t work * Choosing different ways of approaching activities and adapting if it doesn’t work |

**Characteristic of Effective Learning**