

## **Characteristics of Effective Learning - Nursery and Reception**

These support the development of the Unique Child in how children are learning. Practitioners use these to make judgements about how children learn and to plan to cater for each child's unique learning style. The characteristics of learning share equal importance with the learning outcomes and Early Learning Goals are outlined in the development matters. These provide a crucial insight into children's preferences for play, learning needs and methods of communication both independently and in groups alongside others.

### **Playing and exploring – engagement**

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to 'have a go'

### **Active learning – motivation**

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

### **Creating and thinking critically – thinking**

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

The DfE (Department for Education) has recently produced a new guide for parents '*What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage*' (formerly) '*What to expect when*' which guides parents through what to expect in their child's development. It aligns with the new Development Matters produced in 2021. Please click on the link above to view this guide.