



**Curriculum Overview – Characteristics of Effective Learning – Creating and Thinking Critically**

**Early Years Curriculum**

Early Years Curriculum – Creating and Thinking Critically

<p><b>Having their own ideas</b> covers the critical area of creativity – generating new ideas and approaches in all areas of endeavour. Being inventive allows children to find new problems as they seek challenge, and to explore ways of solving these.</p>	<p><b>Using what they know to learn new things</b> refers to the way in which children develop and link concepts, find meaning in sequence, cause and effect and in the intentions of others through both narrative and scientific modes of thought.</p>	<p><b>Choosing ways to do things and finding new ways</b> involves approaching goal-directed activities in organised ways, making choices and decisions about how to approach tasks, planning and monitoring what to do and being able to change strategies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can generate new ideas during activities.</li> <li>• I can adapt, refine or make changes when previous ideas were unsuccessful or could be developed.</li> <li>• I can be inventive in solving problems, using and synthesising knowledge and skills across areas of learning.</li> <li>• I can think of ideas. (Any examples?)</li> <li>• I can find ways to solve problems.</li> <li>• I can find new ways of doing things.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can talk about or explore the idea of cause and effect through actions.</li> <li>• I can use acquired knowledge and skills to explore new learning across and within areas of learning.</li> <li>• I can offer ideas of why things happen and how things work or show this in exploratory play.</li> <li>• I can make links and notice patterns in my experience.</li> <li>• I can make predictions. (What examples can you give?)</li> <li>• I can test out my ideas.</li> <li>• I can develop ideas of grouping, sequencing and cause and effect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can explore ways of solving new problems including trial and error.</li> <li>• I can plan and monitor what has been done.</li> <li>• I can change strategies when appropriate.</li> <li>• I can plan, make decisions about how to do something and solve a problem to reach a goal. (Can you think of any examples that support this?)</li> <li>• I can check how well my activity or what I am doing is going. (How do you know this?)</li> <li>• I can change strategy if needed. (Or does the child always do what he/she knows?)</li> <li>• I can review how well my approach worked. (With support or on their own?)</li> </ul>