




**The Characteristics of Effective Learning at
Decoy Community Primary school and First Steps Nursery**



Playing and Exploring (Engagement)	<p>Finding out and exploring Showing curiosity about objects, events and people. Using senses to explore the world around them. Engaging in open-ended activities and showing particular interests.</p>	<p>Learning like Ellie Elephant</p> 
	<p>Playing with what they know Pretending objects are things from their experience. Representing their experiences in play. Taking on a role in their play. Acting out experiences with other people.</p>	
	<p>Being willing to have a go Initiating activities, taking risks and seeking challenge. Showing a 'can do' attitude. Engaging in new experiences. Learning by trial and error.</p>	
Active Learning (Motivation)	<p>Being involved and concentrating Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time. Showing high levels of energy and fascination. Not easily distracted. Paying attention to details.</p>	<p>Learning like Anthony Ant</p> 
	<p>Keeping on trying Persisting with activity when challenges occur. Showing a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off. Bouncing back after difficulties.</p>	
	<p>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals. Being proud of how they accomplished something-not just the end result. Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external reward or praise.</p>	
Creating and Thinking Critically (Thinking)	<p>Having their own ideas Thinking of ideas. Finding ways to solve problems. Finding new ways to do things.</p>	<p>Learning like Carla Cat</p> 
	<p>Making links Making links and noticing patterns in their experience. Making predictions and testing their ideas. Developing ideas of grouping, sequencing, cause and effect.</p>	
	<p>Choosing ways to do things Planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal. Checking how well their activities are going and changing strategy as needed. Reviewing how well the approach worked.</p>	

Here at Decoy School and First Steps Nursery, we work hard to develop the children's Characteristics of effective learning because we know that it is these transferable skills that enable them to achieve in any area of the curriculum.

Through the use of these skills, we aim to help each child develop into a confident, independent learner. We have given each of the areas a learning character for the children to associate with and aspire to become: Ellie Elephant encourages playing and exploring, Anthony Ant is a busy, active learner who keeps trying and Carla Cat is creative and thinks critically when approaching tasks.

During the day, the children will have opportunities to learn and use skills in a variety of ways with the characteristics of learning being a big focus. You may see your child come home with a character sticker or certificate or you may see this as a 'wow' moment observation on your child's Tapestry (online learning journey) account as recognition of them demonstrating a specific characteristic of learning.