**Characteristics of effective learning – ongoing throughout the year**

The ways in which your child engages with other people and their environment underpin their learning and development across all areas and supports your child to remain an effective and motivated learner

**Playing and exploring – their engagement**

* Encourage them to explore, and show your own interest in discovering new things.
* Help them as needed to do what they are trying to do, without taking over or directing.
* Join in their play, fitting in with their ideas.
* Model pretending an object is something else and help develop roles and stories.
* Encourage them to try new activities and to judge risks for themselves.
* Pay attention to how they engage in activities --the challenges faced, the effort, thought, learning and enjoyment. Talk more about the process rather than the end product.
* Talk about how you and your child get better at things through effort and practice and what can be learned when things go wrong.

**Active learning- their motivation**

* Support your child to choose their own activities – what they want to do and how they will do it.
* Stimulate their interests through shared attention, and calm them when they are over-stimulated.
* Help them to become aware of their own goals, make plans, and to review their own progress and successes. Describe what you see them trying to do, and encourage them to talk about their own processes and successes.
* Be specific when you praise, especially noting their effort, such as how they: concentrate, try different approaches, persist, solves problems, and have new ideas.

**Creating and thinking critically – their thinking**

* Use the language of thinking and learning: think, know, remember, forget, idea, makes sense, plan, learn, find out, confused, figure out, trying to do.
* Show them you don’t always know, are curious and sometimes puzzled, and can think and find out.
* Encourage open-ended thinking. What else is possible?
* Always respect their efforts and ideas, so they feel safe to take a risk with a new idea.
* Talking aloud helps them to think and control what they do. Model self-talk, describing your actions in play.
* Value questions, talk, and many possible responses, without rushing toward answers too quickly.
* Follow their lead in conversations, and think about things together.
* Encourage them to describe problems they encounter, and to suggest ways to solve the problem.
* Show and talk about strategies – how to do things – including problem-solving, thinking and learning.
* Talk with them about what they are doing, how they plan to do it, what worked well and what they would change next time.