

## Creating and Thinking Critically

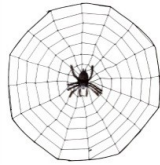
**Having their own ideas.**

**Making links.**

(Being busy and solving problems like a spider) and

**Choosing ways to do things.**

(Being wise like an owl)



**You can help your child by:**

Using the language of thinking and learning: *think, know, remember, forget, idea,*

*makes sense, plan, learn, find out, confused, figure out, trying to do.*

Being a thinker, showing that you don't always know, are curious and can think and find out. Encouraging open-ended thinking by not settling on the first ideas: *What else* is possible? Talking aloud helps. Valuing their questions, and many possible responses, without rushing towards answers too quickly.

Supporting them to make connections between their experiences. Encouraging them to describe problems they encounter and suggest ways to solve the problem. Talk about how to do things including problem-solving, thinking and learning.

Wren Class teachers are very experienced in supporting young children to make the best possible progress in their learning.

Your child will probably come home at the end of the day and if asked about their day may say 'Oh ... I just played!'

We hope that this may have given you an explanation about the importance of play and our play philosophy in Wren Class!

If you would like to find out more please come and ask us.

Thank you for your support in helping your child to become an effective and motivated learners.

Mrs C. Wilson and Mrs H. R. Hornig

June 2013



## **Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School**

### The Importance of Play in the Early Years Foundation Stage

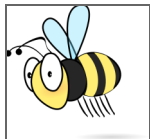
In Wren Class we are committed to providing a stimulating and inspiring play-based curriculum which will provide your child with an environment in which they can develop the skills to become a lifelong learner.




The ways in which your child engages with other people and their environment underpins their learning and development across all of the areas of learning and supports your child to become an effective and motivated learner.

**This leaflet aims to explain 'The Characteristics of Effective Learning'.**  
Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012).

**Playing and Exploring**  
(Engagement)  
**Active Learning**  
(Motivation) and  
**Creating and Thinking Critically**  
(Thinking)

We find that identifying children's learning with various creatures helps the children to identify with the different 'learning styles'.  
These will gradually become clearer throughout the year!



**Playing and Exploring**  
**Finding out and exploring.**  
(Being curious like a cat)   
**Playing with what they know.**  
(Pretending/make-believing like a unicorn)   
**Being willing to have a go.**  
(Seeking challenges like a chameleon) 

**You can help your child by:**  
Encouraging them to explore things that can be used, moved and combined in a variety of ways.

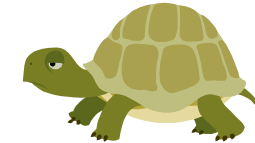
Showing them how you are interested in discovering new things.

Helping your child to do what they are trying to do, without taking over or directing.

Encouraging your child to try new activities and judge risks on their own. Support your child's confidence with words and body language.

Talking about how you can get better at things through effort and practice, and what you can learn when things go wrong.

**Active Learning**  
**Being involved and concentrating.**  
**Keeping on trying.**  
**Enjoying achieving what they set out to do.**  
(Remaining focussed like a tortoise)



**You can help your child by:**  
Supporting them to choose their activities - what they want to do and how they will do it.

Sharing their interest and calming them if they are over-stimulated.

Helping them to become aware of their own goals, make plans, and review their own progress and successes.

Being specific when you praise, especially commenting on their concentration, how they try different approaches, persist and solves problems

Talk about their learning, rather than just directing and then they will develop their own motivation.