

Holistic development and learning

Enabling environments foster holistic approaches to early development and learning, recognising that different aspects are constantly connected in a child's experiences. In the EYFS, areas are described separately in order to break down the complexity of development and learning, but it is important to keep the whole child in mind. As a child encounters objects, events and other people, all spheres of development and learning are in action at the same time, as in the example below of two children who are experimenting with water and a construction using tubing and plastic sheets

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In their activity together the children can cooperate, asserting their own ideas and taking account of each other's viewpoints. They are confident to engage with others and to access resources independently.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The children are finding out what works through trial and error. They are involved and focused as they work toward their goals, and show satisfaction with how it is going. They have thought creatively about what to do, and can evaluate and change their plans if they decide to.

Communication and Language

Using words and gestures, the children can express their own ideas and understand the other's suggestions. They use words related to what they are doing, and they can also refer to connections in other times and places.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children have used resources to develop their own ideas, transforming the resources into a new structure. In their play, they can use flexible thinking to try out and evaluate possibilities.



Physical Development

In carrying out their shared activity, each child has combined a range of sensory information and gross and fine motor movements to hold, tape, tie and arrange the tubing, to pour, and to use space to physically collaborate with each other.

Understanding the World

Playing together within the customs of the setting helps the children to feel part of a community. They are finding out about the behaviour of water and the tubing materials, and can talk about what is happening.

Mathematics

The activity gives the children a chance to investigate volume, the weight of full and empty cups, and the height and shapes of the tubing. They may count cups of water, and understand the pattern of taking turns.

Literacy

The language and experiences involved in this activity will support the children's comprehension of stories and other written accounts. They may recognise symbols or letters on their clothing.