



Children's Learning

Ideas to help support progress

Length of Time



Child development experts say that children can typically concentrate for 2-3 minutes per year of their age so an average length of time, for example, for a 10-year-old would be 20-30 minutes.

However, this is dependent on the child and the activity they are doing. Additionally, although many children would find it difficult to focus on a 'teaching element' of a lesson for a long period of time, they should be able to work on a lesson activity for longer.

Some children also need more breaks, especially those with additional educational needs. It is a good idea to judge when a child needs a break and break for a stretch, drink or refreshments. Continuing when a child is not focused will not achieve the desired outcome and will be stressful for yourself.

Praise Effort and Small Steps

Children learn best when they feel they have a positive mindset; when they feel they 'can' achieve, they are doing well in their work, and this is recognised by others.

However, the opposite is also true. They can find it difficult to make mistakes, feel the pressure of colleague comparisons, feel they can't do something as well as others, which can then lower their confidence and self-esteem which in turn puts up barriers to future learning.



The best way to teach a child is to take small steps at their speed with lots of praise, acknowledgement, repetition and securing of concepts before moving on. Praise effort rather than attainment to help them believe in themselves. This will make them feel confident and motivated as well as strengthening solid foundations on which to build future learning.

Mistakes are Good!



When a child makes a mistake, emphasise and model how we all make mistakes and mistakes are excellent as they are the ways we all learn.

We want children not to be worried about making mistakes but to recognise them as a positive to improving. This will help them through their future schooling and so help protect their self-esteem and not always have unrealistic expectations of perfection.

Comparing to Others



It is important to focus on each child and not to compare openly to peers.

Every child develops at different speeds and learns in their own time – and if they cannot do something, it is fine because they just can't do it **'yet'**.

As children go through future schooling, comparisons for all sorts of reasons will increase more and more so it is important we teach children to grow up respecting everyone has different skills and try not to compare themselves to others in a negative way in order to protect their own self-esteem.

Different styles of learner

There are three main types of learner; kinaesthetic, visual and auditory. Most younger children learn first through kinaesthetic methods (using real objects and modelling their learning by 'doing') before moving onto visual and auditory methods.

Older children, and even adults, will have their own preferred method of learning new things, with many people needing kinaesthetic methods in order to secure what they are doing rather than just relying on listening to 'how' to do something.

Try and recognise what type of a learner each child is and see if you can create methods of explaining which support their learning style.



Problem Solving and Everyday Learning



Try to build learning opportunities into everyday activities around school.

Each day, without realising it, we are using English and maths; telling the time, using money, measuring, working out quantities, writing lists and notes to name just a few.

Involving children as much as possible in this every day maths and English will create a sense of purpose for their learning which will drive them to achieve more. At the same time, this will develop their problem solving and reasoning skills, together with maths language, which it is important to develop alongside the learning of the maths skills.

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