



Active

Requiring physical and embodied engagement across all areas of learning. Whether this is indoors or outdoors, activity is essential in order to activate children's full potential. Their focus, concentration, motivation and self-regulation are enhanced through moving, doing and interacting within a range of learning environments.

Active learning provides opportunities for young learners to engage in learning through a multi-sensory approach. As they manipulate materials, and experiment with the properties of objects, young learners formulate ideas through a hands-on, physical approach to learning. Engagement in learning occurs when young learners participate in educational experiences that are active, promote autonomy and encourage decision making.

In creating the conditions to support active learning consider the interconnectedness of the physical, social and temporal learning environment.

Young learners need:

- access to a wide range of open-ended materials to support learning
- agency to self-select materials to support their learning
- opportunity to participate in small groups, in pairs, and in whole class learning experiences as well as working individually
- time to share ideas, to discuss and record observations and to reflect on learning — how is this built into the daily routine?
- space to learn through multi-sensory pathways that support active learning.

Teacher considerations

- What ownership do young learners have of learning environments?
- Are there open-ended resources that young learners can access independently throughout the day/week?
- What use of the indoor and outdoor space do I make to support active learning? For example, are the indoor and outdoor learning environments used to support active learning across subject areas?
- Is active learning used across a variety of pedagogical approaches to support learning?
- How do I monitor and assess young learners' active learning and how is this information used to inform judgments about learning and future planning?
- When reflecting with young learners' about what was learned, and how they learned it, are reflections documented to share with families?

*Active learning 'motivates, stimulates and supports children in their development of skills, concepts, language acquisition/communication skills and concentration. It also provides opportunities for children to develop positive attitudes and to demonstrate awareness/use of recent learning, skills and competencies, and to consolidate learning.'*¹

¹ Plant, Y. (2008). Play/Active Learning overview for 3-7 year olds. Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff.

<http://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/130215play-activeen.pdf>



