

What is Active Learning?

In Scotland, as in many countries throughout the world, active learning is seen as an appropriate way for children to develop vital skills and knowledge and a positive attitude to learning.

Active learning is learning which engages and challenges children's thinking using real-life and imaginary situations. It takes full advantage of the opportunities for learning presented by:

- > spontaneous play
- > planned, purposeful play
- > investigating and exploring
- > events and life experiences
- > focused learning and teaching

supported when necessary through sensitive intervention to support or extend learning.

All areas of the curriculum can be enriched and developed through play.

Active Learning and A Curriculum for Excellence

Active learning in the early years can support children's development of the four capacities in many ways.

For example, they can develop as:

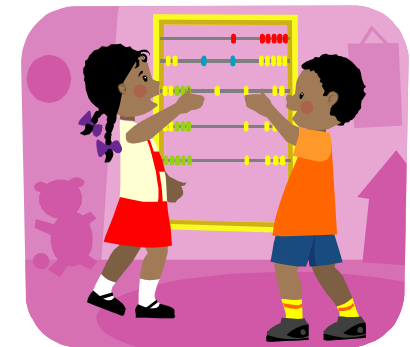
> *successful learners* through using their imagination and creativity, tackling new experiences and learning from them, and developing important skills including Literacy and numeracy through exploring and investigating while following their own interests

> *confident individuals* through succeeding in their activities, having the satisfaction of a task accomplished, learning about bouncing back from setbacks, and dealing safely with risk

> *responsible citizens* through encountering different ways of seeing the world, learning to share and give and take, learning to respect themselves and others, and taking part in making decisions

> *effective contributors* through playing together in leading or supporting roles, tackling problems, extending communication skills, taking part in sustained talking and thinking, and respecting the opinions of others.

Active Learning



Active Learning is:

Focused on learning

Relevant to children's experience

Involving children making some decisions about their learning e.g. collaborative planning, choice of resources

Enabling children to investigate and explore in learning contexts using a range of resources and spaces

Working in pairs, trios and groups and as a whole class

Enabling children to practise their learning and explain their learning to others

Increasing independence in learning

Increasing confidence in learning

Using planning formats which focus on key learning intentions whilst remaining responsive to child-led contexts

Increasingly using observations as one way of recording progress

Fun and motivating for children and staff

Increasing pace and challenge

Challenging pupils thinking

Active Learning is not:

Focused on simply setting up activities

Having children moving around to keep them "active"

All about having "choosing" areas

Having lots of different resources out all of the time

Allowing children to "choose" all day

Abandoning whole class teaching time

Abandoning rigour and tracking

Children playing (although there is still a place for learning through play and for being play-ful!)