



I Am a Learner

Look at Me



All children are different.

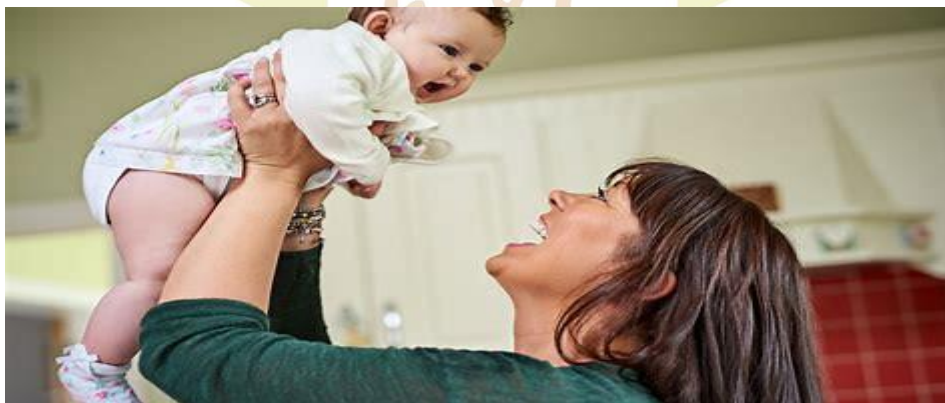
All children matter

When I am born, I have all the cells in my brain that I will need throughout my life. Between now and being 5 years old is when my brain will develop the most.



I need the people around me to help me to connect my cells, called neuron pathways. Connecting the pathways helps me to strengthen the new skills I have already learned and helps me learn new ones, such as love, feelings of safety as well as language, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills. The more you play, talk, stimulate, care and love me the more they become strengthened

You can do this through the care you provide me and the stimulation and interaction I receive. Play with me, talk to me and cuddle me.



To support me as a learner, it is important that I access quality early education at nursery. Attending nursery regularly and being on time can have a positive impact on my future academic and career success.



You can help me by maximising the amount of time I go to nursery. Take me every day that I am well enough to attend. This will ensure I don't miss out on learning opportunities.

I will learn best through my own play and exploring things at my own pace. I will learn through repetitive play.



I may prefer to watch others before I have go myself, but I will learn the same skills, just in my own time.



I need you to help me to be independent and learn new things for myself, with a little support to begin with. Encourage me to do things for myself and ask you for help when I need it. You will need to be patient with me and give me time. If you do it for me, it will take me longer to learn.



I like it when you are involved in my learning. When you are involved in my nursery it benefits my learning and the opportunities that I have. It makes me feel more supported with my early education and makes me happy and secure.



Attachments/Emotional

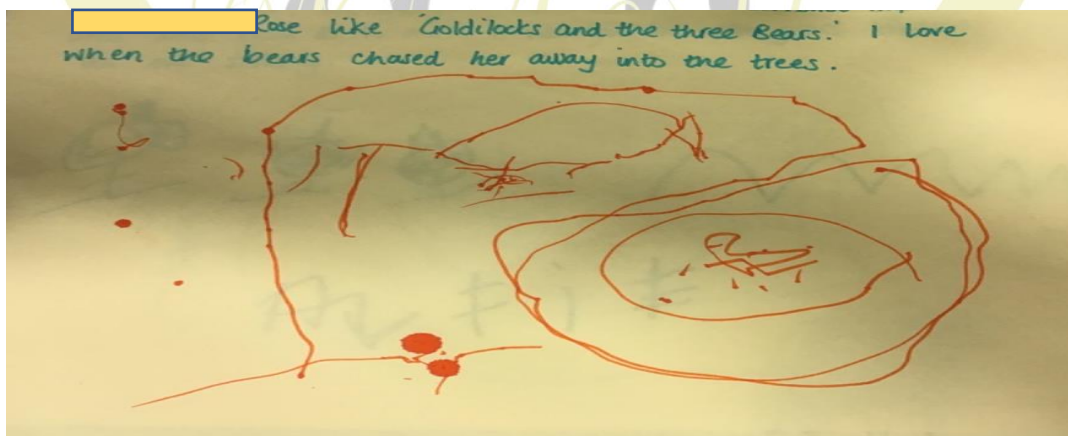
Giving me praise and encouragement will help me to learn how to trust others. I will then have the confidence and feeling of self-worth that I need to form relationships with others.



I like it when you give me lots of praise, as this helps me to build my confidence to try new experiences.

Encourage me to try new things, by doing them with me or tell me how well I have done something.

Comment on my creativity, even when it looks like a scribble, ask me about it, what I tell you may surprise you. It is more about the process of learning than what the art work looks like.



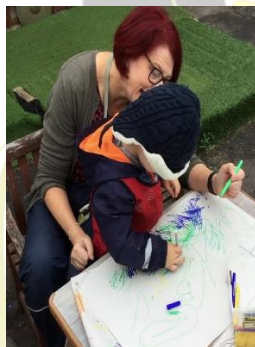
I need you to be consistent with me. This helps me to trust others and build relationships, as I know they mean what they say.

I need you to have healthy boundaries for me to follow.



Support me by giving me two choices to make and be consistent with the follow through. You say it, you mean it. But be realistic.

Although I have confidence, I may still get upset when you leave me at nursery. This is normal.



You can help me by reassuring me that you will come back at a certain time, then leave quickly. The adults around me will comfort me and reassure me that I am ok. This will support me to build relationships with them and help me be resilient.

When I have settled the adults will let you know I am ok. This ensures that I feel safe and secure and ready to learn.

Language

As a learner I need to develop my listening skills and interactions. This allows me to hear and follow instructions and communicate with those around me.



Smile at me and let me smile back. When I babble make the sound back to me. Pull funny faces and encourage me to pull them back. These are early skills I need to develop for turn taking in conversations.



When you are asking me to do something, keep the instruction short and simple. Use a few words rather than long sentences e.g. 'Tidy up', instead of, 'You made a mess so you can tidy up all those toys'. Check in with me to make sure I have understood and repeat back to me.

I am always keen to tell people about my day. Telling you about my day will help to reinforce what I have been learning. To help me understand about learning ask me, 'What were you learning about today?'.

Although digital technology is great and helps me learn some skills I need to have limited time on these, it doesn't replace being able to see, hear and feel the sound of your voice.

Social

I like to watch others playing. This helps me to focus my attention and develop my interests.

As my confidence grows, I will begin to join others as they play with things that interest me. Playing alongside others is all part of my development.



Please don't worry if you see me playing on my own, as sometimes I just like to play by myself. I am learning.

You can help me by providing me with opportunities to be in social situations, for example taking me to a playgroup or a play park where there are other children. This helps me to begin to understand some social situations that I may come across in life.

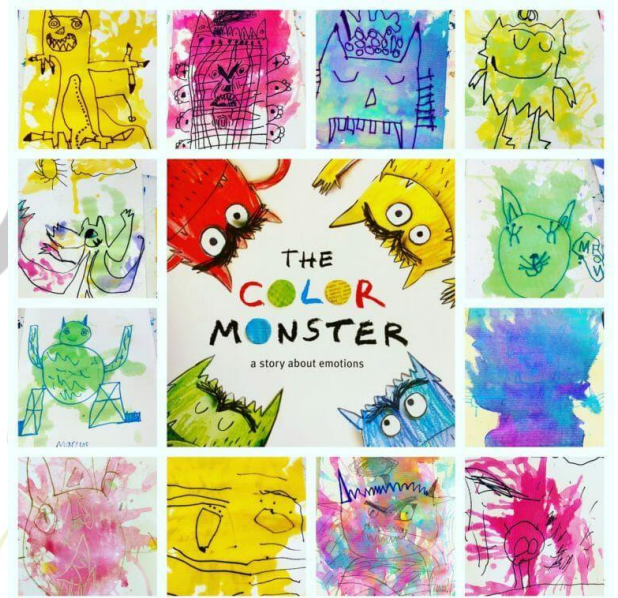
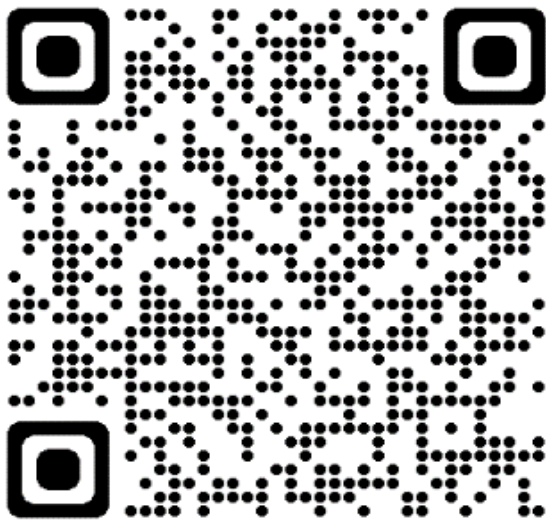
Part of my learning in becoming sociable, is to become aware of my own feelings and the feelings of others. Learning about different feelings helps me to develop empathy towards others.



To help me to be a good friend, I need to learn the skill of turn taking, sharing, and waiting my turn. This will help me to learn how to play co-operatively and how to reason with others. It will take me a long time to learn this skill as I am not yet fully developed so I may not want to share or take turns and may take tantrums, this is normal for me as I am learning these skills.



Acknowledge and talk to me about different feelings that you or I are having. I need to learn that all feelings are ok, but some of the behaviour I may display when I feel that way is not ok. Read and use Colour Monster with me so I begin to understand emotions.



[Link to the Colour Monster story](#)

I respond well to having rules to follow, it makes me feel safe and secure. These help me to understand exactly how I should be behaving and to accept that my actions have consequences.



When setting me rules, it is important that you make sure I understand them and that you are consistent with them.

As I grow, I like to learn to do things for myself. You can encourage me to become independent by supporting me to put on my own clothes or feed myself. I realise this may take us longer to get ready, so I need you to be patient with me as I learn these new skills.



Physical

I have two sets of motor skills, these are called my gross and fine motor skills.

My gross motor is the development of my large muscles and the movements I make using my legs, arms, and torso. Building up these muscles will support me as I learn to sit up, walk, run, balance etc.



You can help me develop my large motor skills by taking me to the park to explore the equipment. Letting me help around the house by wiping the table, dusting, or sweeping the floor etc will help me to build up my muscles. Floor play is also good as it helps build up my shoulder, back, neck and arm muscles. Encouraging me to do anything that use big movements will make my muscles stronger.

Once I have developed strong gross motor skills, I can then strengthen my fine motor skills.

Fine Motor skills are the development of the muscle in my hands, fingers, and wrists. Having good fine motor skills let me complete tasks such zipping up my zips, using a fork etc.



I like to take part in dough discos. Pushing, rolling, and pulling the dough is one way I can strengthen my finger and hand muscles. You can support me in other ways by giving opportunities to do puzzles, threading buttons or pasta tubes, doing my buttons or feeding myself.

Having strong hand and finger muscles will give me the strength I need to hold a pencil. This then supports me to be able to draw and write skilfully when I get to school.



I am Confident, consistent, and clever!