Inveralmond Learning Community



**B**uilding **L**earning **P**ower

at Letham Primary

What is Learning Power?

Building Learning Power (BLP) is an approach to learning that will soon be used throughout the Inveralmond cluster and which we will shortly be implementing at Letham Primary. This approach was created by Professor Guy Claxton. It is based on the idea that we are all capable of becoming better learners. BLP allows the children to better themselves as learners through a variety of strategies and techniques.

Key Principles

BLP is a learning culture that encourages children to become better learners.

• It allows children to approach difficulties in learning without fear of failure

• It allows children to take small steps within learning

• It develops confidence

• It gives clear labels for the children to use to develop understanding of learning processes

Why are we Building Learning Power?

We believe that BLP will allow us to develop a common language for learning across the school. The language will be used in all classrooms, with all children. This helps everyone talk about ‘learning to learn’ and how to become better at it!

Learning Muscles

Just as we can build our physical muscles with the right kind of exercise, learning muscles can also be developed and can grow in strength and stamina. Our learning muscles come under four headings.

RESOURCEFULNESS – questioning, making links, imagining, reasoning, capitalising

RECIPROCITY – collaboration, imitation, empathy, listening, interdependence

REFLECTIVENESS – planning, revising, distilling, meta-learning

RESILIENCE – To start we will be focussing on the learning muscles that come under the heading of RESILIENCE. There are four …

* Perseverance muscle (not giving up)
* Absorption muscle (getting lost in learning)
* Managing distractions muscle (being able to focus and settle to tasks)
* Noticing muscle (noticing details in reading, writing, when making observations and when looking at how things work)

How can you help at home to build these learning power muscles?

* Demonstrate sticking at things even if they are difficult. Think aloud as you try a new recipe or struggle with a bit of DIY. Praise your child when they persevere and encourage them to take a break when they have had enough
* Provide opportunities for your child to find an aspect of learning that encourages their questioning spirit and captures their imagination through visits to the library, museum, art gallery, wildlife park ….
* Talk with them about what helps them to concentrate and manage distractions
* Work, play and learn alongside your child, encouraging them to notice and to make observations