

# The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the Prime and specific areas of Learning and Development are all interconnected.

The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically – underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

The **Prime** areas begin to develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences, and run through and support learning in all other areas. The prime areas continue to be fundamental throughout the EYFS.

The **specific** areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime area, and provide important contexts for learning.

The Unique Child reaches out to relate to people and things through the Characteristics of Learning, which move through all areas of learning:

- **playing and exploring** – finding out and exploring, playing with what they know, and being willing to ‘have a go’
- **Active Learning** - being involved and concentrating, keep trying, and enjoying achieving what they set out to do.
- **creating and thinking critically** – having their own ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things

**Prime Areas are fundamental, work together, and move through to support development in all other areas.**

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** – making relationships, self-confidence and self-awareness and managing feelings and behaviour
- **Physical Development** – moving and handling and health and self-care
- **Communication & Language** – listening and attention, understanding, and speaking

**Specific Areas include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.**

- **Literacy** – reading and writing
- **Mathematics** – numbers, and shapes, space and measure
- **Understanding the World** – people and communities, the world and technology.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – exploring and using media and materials, and being imaginative

**Children develop in the context of relationships and the environment around them. This is unique to each family, and reflects individual communities and cultures**