

We have introduced the children to our Learning Dinosaurs.



**Explorasaurus**



**Trysaurus**



**Thinkasaurus**

These three dinosaurs will stay at Ruardean Acorns and we hope they will help your child/children to learn. They are Explorasaurus, Trysaurus and Thinkasaurus.

- *Explorasaurus* likes to find out about things and uses all his senses to do so. He is good at pretending with things and people and asks questions to find things out. He has a 'can do' attitude towards his learning.
- *Trysaurus* tries her best and does not give up. She concentrates hard on activities and keeps on trying even when something is really difficult.
- *Thinkasaurus* has her own ideas, finds ways to solve problems, makes predictions, sees if she was right and thinks carefully about what she has learnt.

The dinosaurs are based on The Characteristics of Effective Learning run through and underpin the seven areas of learning and describe the learning processes that occur throughout everyday activities and experiences. We hope that they will encourage your children to remain effective and motivated learners and give them language to be able to explain the skills they use whilst learning.

**Early Years Characteristics of Effective Learning (DFE, 2012, P6-7)**

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*Explorasaurus*

*Playing and Exploring – Engagement*

*Finding out and exploring:*

- *Showing curiosity about objects, events and people*
- *Using senses to explore the world around them*
- *Engaging in open-ended activity*
- *Showing particular interests*



*Playing with what they know:*

- *Pretending objects are things from their experience*
- *Representing their experiences in play*
- *Taking on a role in their play*
- *Acting out experiences with other people*

*Being willing to 'have a go':*

- *Initiating activities*
- *Seeking challenge*
- *Showing a 'can do' attitude*
- *Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error*

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Tryasaurus

Active Learning – Motivation



Being involved and concentrating:

- Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time
- Showing high levels of energy, fascination
- Not easily distracted □ Paying attention to details

Keeping on trying:

- Persisting with activity when challenges occur
- Showing a belief more effort or a different approach will pay off
- Bouncing back after difficulties

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do:

- Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals
- Being proud of how they accomplished something – not just the end result
- Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise

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**Thinkasaurus**

*Creating and Thinking Critically – Thinking*

*Having their own ideas:*

- *Thinking of ideas*
- *Finding ways to solve problems*
- *Finding new ways to do things*



*Making links:*

- *Making links and noticing patterns in their experience*
- *Making predictions*
- *Testing their ideas*
- *Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect*

*Choosing ways to do things:*

- *Planning, making decisions and how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal*
- *Checking how well their activities are going*
- *Changing strategy as needed*
- *Reviewing how well the approach worked*