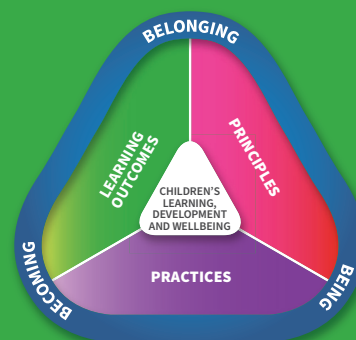


# LEARNING OUTCOME 4



## Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Children's learning is holistic, combining children's sensory perceptions, body movement, actions, thinking and emotions. When children have sound wellbeing and feel safe, they have the confidence to experiment and explore and to try out new ideas, becoming active and involved participants in learning. Children are more likely to be confident and involved learners when their funds of knowledge, and their family and community funds of knowledge (experiences and understandings), are recognised and included in the early childhood curriculum. This assists children to build on what they already know and make connections to make sense of new experiences.

Children use active mental processes such as exploration, experimentation, questioning, collaboration and problem solving across all aspects of curriculum. Thinking and learning are interrelated and developed through interactions and experiences with others, materials, objects and places. Such learning and thinking processes assist in the development of executive function and neuro-connectivity in the brain. Knowing about how their brain works, the language of learning and strategies to develop a growth mindset assist children in life-long learning.

Developing learning dispositions such as curiosity, persistence and creativity enables all children to participate in and gain from learning experiences. Effective learners can transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another and locate and use resources for learning. In a supportive active learning environment, children who are confident and involved learners are increasingly able to take responsibility for their own learning, personal regulation and contribution to the social environment. Children's knowledge expands where educators and children share ideas and knowledge through shared sustained thinking. Connections and continuity between learning experiences in different settings make learning

more meaningful and increase all children's feelings of *belonging*.

Children develop understandings of themselves and their world through active, hands-on investigation. A supportive active learning environment encourages all children's engagement in learning, which can be recognised as deep concentration and complete focus on what captures their curiosity and interests. Children bring their *being* to their learning. They have many ways of seeing the world, different processes of learning and their own preferred learning styles.

Active involvement and engagement in learning builds children's understandings of concepts and the creative thinking and inquiry processes that are necessary for lifelong learning. They can challenge and extend their own thinking, and that of others, and create new knowledge in collaborative interactions and negotiations. Children's active involvement changes what they know, can do and value and transforms their learning and thinking.

Educators' knowledge of individual children is crucial to providing an environment and experiences where all children can participate and will optimise their learning and thinking.

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

- Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
- Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- express wonder and interest in their environments
- are curious and enthusiastic participants in their learning
- share their ideas with others and ask questions of adults
- use play to investigate, experiment, test hypotheses, imagine and explore ideas
- follow and extend their own interests with enthusiasm, energy and concentration
- initiate and contribute to play experiences emerging from their own ideas
- participate in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences
- explore diverse ways of knowing, being and doing in their learning
- persevere and experience the satisfaction of achievement
- persist even when they find a task difficult
- use positive self-talk when trying to overcome a problem or setback
- revisit previous learning experiences and plan new challenges
- engage in creative experiences such as art, dance and drama
- positively respond to and incorporate the ideas of others to construct new learning
- use their senses to play, explore and try new things
- talk about what is happening in their brain when they are learning new things.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- recognise and value children’s involvement in learning
- provide learning environments that are flexible and open-ended
- respond to children’s displays of learning dispositions by commenting on them and providing encouragement and additional ideas
- model strategies such as positive self-talk to assist children to manage struggles and cope with challenges or setbacks
- provide feedback to children focused on effort and process over outcome or product
- encourage children to engage in both individual and collaborative explorative learning processes
- listen carefully to children’s ideas and discuss with them how these ideas might be developed
- include a growth mindset model in their everyday activities
- find out how to talk to children about how their brains work and how it grows as they learn
- provide opportunities for children to revisit their ideas and extend their thinking
- model inquiry processes, including wonder, curiosity and imagination, try new ideas and take on challenges
- reflect with children on what and how they have learned
- build on the funds of knowledge, languages and understandings that children bring to their early childhood setting

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Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

- explore the diversity of cultures and social identities
- critically reflect on personal responses to cultural diversity that includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- create responsive learning environments that promote shared sustained thinking.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

### This is evident when children, for example:

- use trial and error to explore different possibilities through ‘cause and effect’
- initiate investigative play to solve self-generated problems and discoveries
- apply a wide variety of thinking strategies to engage with situations and solve problems, and adapt these strategies to new situations
- create and use representation to organise, record and communicate mathematical ideas and concepts
- make predictions and generalisations about their daily activities, aspects of the natural world and environments, using patterns they generate or identify and communicate these using mathematical language and symbols
- explore their environment through asking questions, experimenting, investigating and using digital technologies
- connect with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (e.g. Elders, role models) to engage with stories about place-based history and culture
- manipulate objects and experiment with ‘cause and effect’, trial and error, and motion
- contribute to mathematical discussions and arguments
- use reflective thinking to consider why things happen and what can be learned from these experiences
- develop and test theories to solve problems
- use a range of strategies and digital tools to organise and represent mathematical and scientific thinking
- use a range of media to express their ideas through the arts, e.g. clay, drawing, paint, digital technologies
- engage with culturally relevant objects to test ideas and represent mathematical concepts.

### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- plan learning environments that are flexible, with appropriate levels of challenge where children are encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks in their learning
- recognise mathematical understandings that children bring to learning and build on these in ways that are relevant to each child
- provide resources for very young children to explore the properties of materials through manipulating, rotating, collecting, transporting and positioning
- provide children with resources that offer challenge, intrigue and surprise, support their investigations and share their enjoyment
- provide experiences that encourage children to investigate and solve problems
- use language to describe (verbalise) back to children their investigations and learning experiences
- talk to children about how the brain works
- encourage children to use language to describe and explain their ideas
- provide opportunities for involvement in experiences that support the investigation of ideas, complex concepts and thinking, reasoning and hypothesising
- help and encourage children to express or make visible their ideas and theories to others
- model mathematical and scientific language, e.g. count out loud and point out patterns
- join in children’s play and model reasoning, predicting and reflecting processes and language
- intentionally scaffold children’s understandings, including description of strategies for approaching problems
- listen carefully to children’s attempts to hypothesise and expand on their thinking through conversation and questioning
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators to provide feedback and reflect on everyday practices within their setting

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Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

- ensure documentation of learning is visible to encourage the revisiting of ideas and concepts
- support children’s extended investigations with flexible schedules to allow for multiple solutions and ways of thinking to be explored
- model the use of digital technologies and media to assist children to investigate and document their findings
- use cooking experiences, as well as sand and water play, to support mathematical and scientific skills such as observation, reasoning and measurement.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

### Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another

#### This is evident when children, for example:

- practice and imagine relationships and experiences in their daily lives through pretend or symbolic play
- engage with others to co-construct learning
- develop an ability to mirror, repeat and practice the actions of others, either immediately or later
- make connections between experiences, concepts and processes
- use the processes of play, reflection and investigation to solve problems
- apply generalisations from one situation to another
- try out strategies that were effective to solve problems in one situation in a new context
- transfer knowledge from one setting to another
- use strategies to reflect on and assess their learning and thinking.

#### Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:

- provide play opportunities and realistic materials that reflect children's daily lives
- value signs of children applying their learning in new ways and talk about this with them in ways that grow their understanding
- support children to construct multiple solutions to problems and use different ways of thinking
- draw children's attention to patterns and relationships in the environment and in their learning
- plan for time and space where children can reflect on their learning and to see similarities and connections between existing and new learning
- share and transfer knowledge about children's learning from one setting to another, by exchanging information with families and with professionals in other settings
- scaffold children's understandings of how skills and ideas can be transferred to other activities through conversation and questions
- provide opportunities for all educators to participate in acknowledging Country and how this can be used in different settings
- encourage children to discuss their ideas and understandings
- encourage and enable children to reflect on and assess their learning, including progress and next steps towards their learning goals
- understand that competence is not tied to any particular language, dialect or culture.

*Add your own examples from your context:*

## OUTCOME 4: CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS

Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

**This is evident when children, for example:**

- engage in learning relationships with a wide diversity of people
- use their senses and body movements to explore natural and built materials and environments
- experience the benefits and pleasures of shared learning explorations, investigations and imaginary play scenarios
- explore the purpose and function of a range of tools, media, sounds and graphics
- manipulate natural and manufactured materials and resources to investigate, take apart, assemble, invent and construct
- experiment with different technologies
- use digital technologies and media to investigate and problem solve
- explore ideas and theories using imagination, creativity and play
- use feedback from themselves and others to revise and build on an idea
- engage in meaningful conversations about natural and processed materials
- create and construct artwork in a sustainable way using natural and manufactured materials and tools, drawing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories, history, culture, customs and celebrations
- retell or create simple stories using materials or drama to represent ideas
- express and respond to ideas and feelings using a range of creative media including photography and digital technologies
- explore 2D and 3D forms of expression to develop understandings of different artforms and elements.

**Educators promote this learning for all children when they, for example:**

- provide opportunities and support for children to engage in meaningful relationships that provide positive learning opportunities
- provide sensory and exploratory experiences with a wide variety of open-ended natural and processed materials
- provide experiences that involve children in the broader community and environment beyond the early childhood setting
- think carefully about how children are grouped for play, considering possibilities for peer scaffolding
- select and introduce appropriate tools, technologies and media and provide the skills, knowledge and techniques to enhance children’s learning
- provide opportunities for children to both construct and take apart materials as a strategy for learning
- develop their skills and knowledge with digital technologies and media in their curriculum to use them confidently with children
- provide resources that encourage children to represent their thinking
- create opportunities to discuss with colleagues the diverse ways of embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into everyday practice
- thoughtfully introduce questions and adopt active listening approaches to prompt problem solving and creative solutions.

*Add your own examples from your context:*