

FINDING OUT ABOUT LEARNING

EXPLORING PERSEVERANCE



HOW IT DEVELOPED

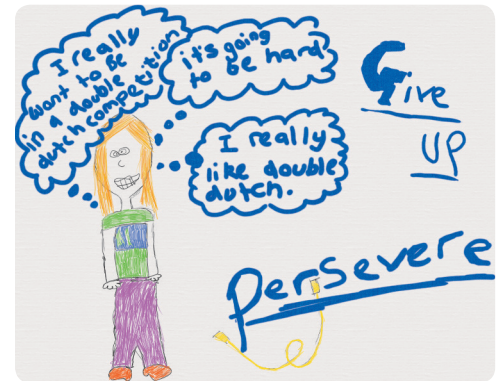
The children came up with other situations where perseverance is important and drew their own split-page books. These included bike riding, and swimming where the 'give up' option showed a picture of a child in trouble in the water. In other lessons they explored more learning choices: e.g. to plan or not to plan, to adapt plans or leave them alone.

IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN

The children really began to explore how learning makes you feel and interestingly pointed out how making the easy (and wrong) choice can make you feel better in the short term.

They also explored the idea of taking a break, not persevering initially but leaving something and coming back to it. The teacher hadn't thought of this option and so let the children know that she had learned something unexpected.

They thoroughly enjoyed the humour of some of the scenarios and began to think of more and more ridiculous choices and outcomes. But they were using learning language throughout and recognising that they could make decisions and be in charge of their own learning. They were also keen to share and display their learning outcomes with other children



WHERE WE STARTED

Persevering with something is an important habit to establish early. We wanted our children to appreciate the potential impact their choices about persevering could have on their short- and long-term learning. We started in Year 2, showing them a picture of a girl holding a skipping rope. We didn't tell the children anything else as we wanted to work from their perceptions. We asked them to act as heroes, helping the girl with her learning.

WHAT WE DID

We asked the children what was happening in the picture and they thought the girl was having trouble learning to skip. We discussed how she might be feeling and what she might do. The children said she could persevere or give up and we wrote these two options on the opposite page that was split into two. The children shared how these two options might make the girl feel and what the consequences of each might be. We then revealed pictures; one of a happy girl skipping with her friends and one of a sad girl watching her friends skipping.

OVER TO YOU

- How might you tackle learning choices?
- What learning choices would suit your class?
- For example, sticking with playing the guitar could lead to being in a band, giving up leads to being in the audience!
- Pictures are a good starting point for learning choice stories.
- Try it using large sheets of paper as we did, or use ICT on an interactive whiteboard.