

RESOURCEFULNESS:

The cognitive aspects of learning; 'thinking'

The capacities that make up this disposition include:

Capitalising

Drawing on the full range of resources from the wider world —other people, books, the Internet, past experience, future opportunities ...

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More Ideas

We are trying to help children understand that capitalising is about being able to make good use of all kinds of things around them, in order to grow their independence and lessen their dependence on you. Be a good role model for capitalising and encourage them with rewards and praise so that you nurture their growing understanding of the concept.

1. The obvious starting point is to organise your classroom in such a way that children are able to select, get and return the resources they need.
2. Design tasks that require the use of a range of resources and gradually expect the children to select what they need.
3. At the beginning of a session talk with the children about the things they might use to help them with their learning.
4. Talk to the children frequently about where they might find information or help. Offer the children a rich and varied curriculum so that they can start to appreciate that they are learning from lots of different sources.
5. Regularly invite visitors into the classroom. Plan these visits with the children and talk about capitalising on other people's experience and knowledge.
6. Model capitalising for the children by discussing ways in which you have found out about something that you are sharing with them, like a recipe from your friend or the way your mum showed you how to draw a frog!
7. Reward children for showing initiative when you see them capitalising on a situation or making the most of an opportunity.
8. As the children's understanding grows introduce the idea of "learning tools" and start filling a plastic toolbox with things like a ruler, calculator, notepad and pencil. Keep asking the children for new ideas and regularly look through it together.
9. Plan outings and trips as often as possible and reflect on how the shared experience has helped you all with your learning.