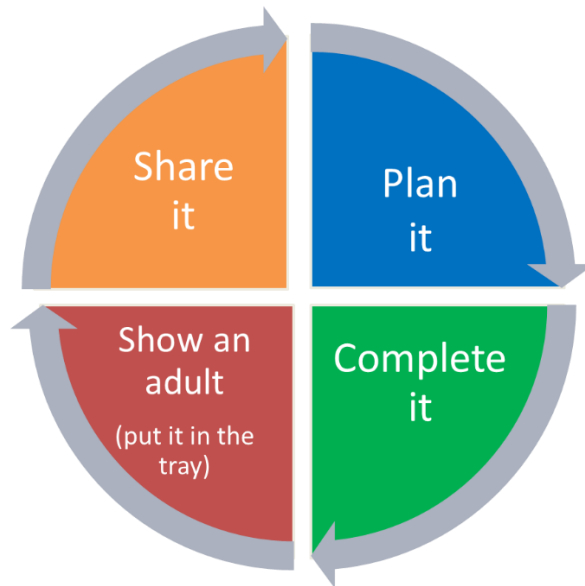


Learning Projects

The Process:

In school all learning project follow a rough cycle, which I have pasted below:



Plan It: This normally is two sentences, one explaining what you will do and the second will now focus on what you need to do it. Although we have a template in school this doesn't require a fancy template, just a piece of paper. (E.g. I will paint a picture of a summer beach. I will need paints, a brush, paper and water). This is a good chance to remind about full stops and capital letters.

Complete It: In school we work on the basis that once they've made a plan they should commit to finishing that piece of work unless there are exceptional circumstances - children can get bored or change their mind, but we do believe it is important for them to learn the importance of seeing things through. In this section I tend to allow them to work more independently getting the things they need on their own and if they struggle to focus I might give them a timer to help them self-regulate. Sometimes I will step in, if they're finding it difficult, if they ask for support or if I can see they need refocusing.

Show an Adult: This is when they hand in their work. I tend to look over first to find the area I will feed back on. Generally, I pick a one or two things only so as not to bombard them and keep them feel positive (unless you know this is not their usual standard) such as 3 key spellings or remembering capitals and full stops. Where I think they can have a go without help first I'll send them off with a different colour pen to try and make their own corrections and then if they need help will step in. Occasionally they might need more 1-1 support, for example in reading it carefully through to me to spot things as we go along. With longer pieces I may not get them to read the whole thing but just choose a section to keep the motivate high.

Share It: Find a way to the work when it's done, whether that be putting it on a wall, sticking it in a book, or sending it via Seesaw. At this point they would normally get a dojo as a reward for getting to the end so you could consider something if you wish.

Key Principles:

Here are some key principles I work off when supporting their project work:

- Every project must contain valuable learning opportunities for their age - while it may seem that what they have picked is not necessarily as obviously learning rich quite often you can adapt or enhance to make it so. One key way to do this especially in construction or art projects is to ensure they complete some writing after linked to it, but sometimes you can spot maths or science concepts in what they do.
- Linked writing ideas:
 - **Art:** In galleries they have a write up next to the art work, so can they create a short caption card about their art?
 - **Construction/ Models:** Can they write instructions for how to make it? Can they turn it into a story? (A good way to prompt this is to ask lots of questions about what is happening).
 - **Role Play:** For bands for example can they write their song, make programmes ensure they can take money and give change?
 - **Small World:** Can they turn their model into a story? (Try asking questions to prompt this) Do they know the habitats of the animals? Can they write a fact file about the habitats?
- Children are developing their learning behaviours as much as their curriculum learning so use this opportunity to help them learn about perseverance, the value of mistakes, focus and independence.
- Positivity is the key! While I don't believe it is valuable to tell them everything is fantastic, try to celebrate hard work and determination (if appropriate) and if you're struggling for what to say when it's not amazing try asking questions or simply showing an interest in difference parts. To help them make improvements ask questions or prompt them feel they could do more so it's seen as a positive thing, e.g. You've used such great adjectives in the introduction I bet you could include these in the rest of your story! Why not have a go and see if you can really impress me!

Learning Project Ideas:

Below are a list of ideas to help get you started if they're feeling stuck.

Writing Area:

- Write a story about your favourite animal.
- Write a fact file about your favourite sport.
- Write song or a poem about your friends.
- Write a letter to a family member you haven't seen in a while.

Maths Area:

- Write your own multiplication sums.
- Weight some items to find out which is heaviest.
- Measure the room!
- Complete a propeller board.

Construction Area:

- Build a school.
- Build an aeroplane.
- Use the lego to make a picture.
- Build a roller-coaster.

Creative Area:

- Design your own invention (remember to include labels).
- Turn your name into art, can you do something different for every letter?
- Create a paper mosaic using small pieces of coloured paper to make a pattern.
- Explore the affects you can create with a watercolour wash as a painting background.

Investigation Area:

- Draw a map of the world or the UK using an atlas to help you.
- Come up with your own code for a friend to do a dance.
- Read a fact book, copy a picture of an invention (e.g. a plane) and write some facts around it.