

The benefits of learning dispositions

Often the focus in early childhood programs is on hard skills like shapes, colours, numbers, letters, fine motor etc. While these are important they can often be taught through any interest or topic. Dispositions for learning are important to help children now and into the future.



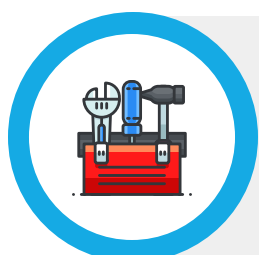
Help children learn how to learn

Dispositions for learning, as per learning outcome 4.1, are soft skills that children can use to engage with any new experience or concept. Without these skills children will always need to rely on others to give them the information instead of being able to work through it themselves.



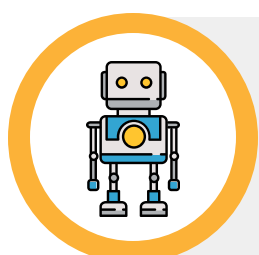
Applicable in any situation

The dispositions for learning can be used anywhere and this is particularly true when you think of infants. So many things are new to them so they are curious about all of them, and so many skills are yet to be learnt yet they are persistent with conquering them.



Gives children tools to use when stuck

When helping children develop their dispositions for learning we often use phrases to support children to work through problems when there isn't an adult available. These phrases are tools for the child to use such as "who else could help me?" or "what did I learn from that mistake?" or "slow down, you can do it"



Will help children in an unknown future

With a future workforce that we cannot even imagine as so many jobs based on hard skills such as accounting, sorting, analysing data etc. being given to computers, it is important that children have soft skills that can be transferred into any situation to support positive outcomes.



Accepts children as capable and competent

If you focus on hard skills like colours, shapes, letters, numbers etc. you diminish a child down to not being able to learn more than these basic pieces of information. If you focus on soft skills you value children as able to learn about anything and give them opportunities to shine.