



Course Companion

for T Level Technical Qualification
in Education and Early Years

Element 2: Supporting Education

Update v1.1, August 2024

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Teacher's Introduction

This course companion is for **Element 2: Supporting Education**, part of the NCFE Cache T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (603/5829/4). The aim of this resource is to guide students through the core content of this element, providing them with in-depth information that covers each of the specification points. This resource aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will help them succeed in the assessment for this qualification.

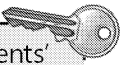
Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

For clarity and ease of use, the content of this course companion matches the order of the specification points. The content is structured as follows against the element's assessment criteria:

- **2.1** – The origin and the purpose of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4.
- **2.2** – The skills and attributes that support children and young people's education.
- **2.3** – The key concepts underpinning a range of theoretical approaches, the strengths and criticisms of each approach, and how they complement one another to inform practice.
- **2.4** – How metacognition supports children and young people to manage their own learning.
- **2.5** – How practitioners provide effective feedback and why it is important in supporting children and young people's educational development.
- **2.6** – Why up-to-date and appropriate technology is important to effectively support children and young people's educational development.
- **2.7** – How personal, educational and environmental factors may affect engagement and development in reading, literacy and mathematics.

Throughout the resource, there are key features to keep an eye out for:




Keywords: used to draw students' attention to various keywords throughout the unit.




Did you know?

Provides further information and additional content to inspire students.


Case studies



Help students to apply the issues identified in the resource to real-world scenarios.



Applied activities encourage application of knowledge to the case studies or to real-world scenarios in the health and social care sector.



Research activities inspire further research and stretch and challenge higher-ability students.

Some of the activities can be completed using either computers, smartphones or tablets to aid students' research, and/or can be completed outside the classroom as homework.

There is also a set of **revision questions** provided at the end of each section (with answers included). These should help students recap their knowledge throughout the course companion and will ensure that they have understood what they have read.


October 2023


Update v1.1, August 2024 (to match specification changes for first teaching September 2024)

- Removed reference to 'EEF Ark Mathematics Mastery Project' from underpinning evidence under 'Behaviourism' on pp. 13 and 14.
- Removed reference to 'Marion Dowling's Young Children's Thinking', 'Cathy Nutbrown's Threads of Thinking' and 'The 30 Million Word Gap by Hart and Risley' from underpinning evidence under 'Social constructivism' on p. 19.
- Removed reference to 'Malaguzzi's 100 Languages of a Child' and 'Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed' from underpinning evidence under 'Humanism' on p. 23.

Chapter 2.1 The origins and purpose of the Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum to Key Stage 4

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the National Curriculum from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 are the two main guidance documents that cover children and young people throughout their academic life up to 16 years old.

 **Curriculum:** is the planned educational content, subjects, resources and assessments undertaken in formal education.

 **Did you know?** By the 1880s all children aged between 5 and 10 years old had to attend compulsory education.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The most recent version of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Guidance was published in September 2021 and became effective as of 1st September 2021. Previous revisions took place in 2017 and 2012. The first version came into effect in 2008 with an aim to provide high-quality and affordable childcare for children which encompasses their safeguarding and welfare. The current version reflects the government requirements for children regarding childcare, curriculum, and funding for children in certain age groups in 1996.

Research activity
Follow this link for the up-to-date version of the EYFS – [zzed.uk/12336-framework](https://www.zzed.uk/12336-framework)

- What legislation do the learning and development requirements of the EYFS stem from?
- What is the ratio of adult:child for three-year-olds in a nursery setting?
- What are the three prime areas of learning?
- If a child who attends the setting has special educational needs, what role does the setting have in identifying and supporting children with special educational needs?

Learning and Development

The EYFS is divided into seven areas of learning and development; this comprises three prime areas and four specific areas of development.

Areas of Learning and Development	The Early Years Foundation Stage		
	Communication and language	Physical development	
Prime			
Specific	Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the world

The **prime** areas of development:

1. **Communication and language (CL):** this area underpins a child's learning development. Spoken language and back and forth interactions from an early age are the focus of language development.
2. **Physical development (PD):** this area of development is associated with a child's physical development. It includes gross motor movement, which is their ability to move their bodies, and fine motor movement, as well as special awareness, as well as fine motor movements for hand-eye coordination, self-care, and also links to early literacy.

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3. **Personal, social and emotional development (PSED):** this area is comprised of self-regulation, which can be described as the ability to understand their own feelings and manage them. Secondly, managing self, which involves the development of independence and increasing their confidence to be willing to try new things. This also includes toileting, and the benefits of a healthy diet. Finally, building relationships, which involves having the ability to work cooperatively with others, making positive attachments, and the ability to empathise.

The **specific** areas of development:

4. **Mathematics:** this area of development consists of being able to count, and understanding the relationships between them, in addition to developing spatial awareness and measure in a variety of different situations and methods, such as cooking. Understanding the relationships to adults and friends is also key.
5. **Literacy:** this area aims to promote reading for children, under the sections of word reading, and additionally emergent writing. Basically, developing an understanding of rhymes and poems.
6. **Understanding the world:** as a citizen of the world, children should understand the environment in which they live. They should explore outside of this area and will increase knowledge and broaden horizons, such as visits to the park, library, and speakers such as doctors, police and educators, in addition to exploring diverse media, such as creative, reading and food tasting.
7. **Expressive arts and design:** this area supports children's imagination and creativity. It involves repeated exposure to and experiences of music, dancing, art, drama and technology.

The progress check at age two

Between the ages of two and three, all children should have a progress check and be provided with a short written report on their child's learning and development. At this stage, the report should cover physical development, communication and language development, and personal, social and emotional development. This progress check must identify the child's strengths and any areas where a delay or concern has been identified.

Early learning goals and assessments

By the end of their reception year, which marks the completion of the statutory year (2021), children should have attained certain levels of development. These are the early learning goals (ELGs). To form judgements as to whether a child has attained the early learning goals, teachers are expected to carry out observations and use their professional knowledge of the child. This information is recorded in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFSE). Additionally, when children start their reception year, they will undergo a communication and language assessment known as the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA).

Characteristics of effective teaching and learning

The EYFSE (2021) provides three characteristics of effective teaching and learning: planning for children and the different rates at which they learn to meet individual needs.

- **Playing and exploring** – involves trying new things, investigating and exploring.
- **Active learning** – improving concentration, persistence with a task and enjoyment.
- **Creating and thinking critically** – developing, linking ideas, and problem-solving.

The scope of the Early Years Foundation Stage and inspection

The EYFSE (2021) sets out the principles, practices and expected outcomes for children, in addition to the legal requirements for the well-being and safeguarding of children aged 0–5 years.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (**Ofsted**) carries out regular inspections of early years settings to ensure that the statutory and legal requirements associated with the quality of education and the safeguarding and well-being of children are being met.



Did you know?
All three- to four-year-olds (all eligible three- to four-year-olds) free preschool education is not compulsory.

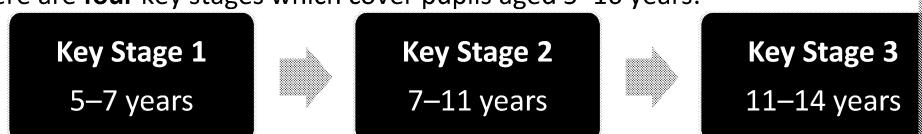
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The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum (England) is statutory guidance which primary* and secondary schools must follow. It includes information about the school curriculum, the statutory requirements for the curriculum, and the development and acquisition of mathematics, language and literacy and programmes of study for each subject under the National Curriculum. The content of the National Curriculum is decided by the Department for Education, with the most recent update being 2014. The subjects within the National Curriculum are divided into **core subjects**, which include English, Mathematics and Science, and are taught across all key stages, and **foundation subjects** which include Art and Design, Citizenship, Computing, Design and Technology, Geography, History, Music, and Physical Education, and are taught at different key stages.

There are **four** key stages which cover pupils aged 5–16 years:



* Academies are no longer under the statutory guidance of the National Curriculum (England) but must follow the content.

The structure of the National Curriculum (England)

Key Stage	1	2	3
Age	5–7	7–11	11–14
Year groups	1–2	3–6	7–10
Core Subjects			
English	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓	✓
Foundation Subjects			
Art and Design	✓	✓	✓
Citizenship			✓
Computing	✓	✓	✓
Design and Technology	✓	✓	✓
Language	✓	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓	✓
History	✓	✓	✓
Music	✓	✓	✓
Physical Education	✓	✓	✓

Primary education

Learners are aged 4–11 and the education setting is guided by the EYF, and the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Secondary education

Learners are aged 11–16 and the education setting is guided by the National Curriculum guidance for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Post-16 education: 16–19 (A level and Technical)

The options available to learners after they have finished Key Stage 4 are as follows:

- Undertake A Levels
- Undertake vocation-based qualifications, such as T Levels
- Become an apprentice, and undertake a qualification while in employment; an apprenticeship can last from 1–4 years dependent on level, and learners are paid an apprentice wage
- Undertake a traineeship – normally a short-term job that could lead to an apprenticeship
- Find a job

Research
Choose a research topic and find out how the d...
how the d...
organised...
this to you

i **Did you know?**
Governments...
learners...
and Engl...
grade 4...
the end...

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2.1 Revision questions

1. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework consists of three prime areas and development.

Identify **one** area.
2. What is meant by the term 'early learning goal'?
3. Explain why inspections are carried out by the Office for Standards in Education and Skills (Ofsted) in early years settings.
4. Outline the key stages and the age ranges in the National Curriculum.
5. Outline the **three** core subjects in the National Curriculum.

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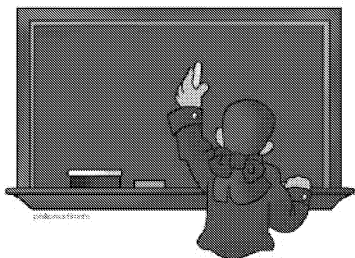
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Chapter 2.2 How adults can effectively support young people in education

Adults play a key role in children and young people's educational journeys, supporting a child or young person to successfully navigate their way through education.

Involving children in their own planning



It is important where possible to ensure that children are at the centre of decisions being made about or for them on their educational journey; involving children and young people in planning can only serve to ensure full engagement and learning being planned for them as they have taken an active role. This would mean it is more likely that they will be motivated and therefore, learn.

One example of involving children and young people in their own planning could be that in a nursery setting on a one-to-one basis, using the seven areas of development and a theme, and asking the child to think of as many activities, games and resources for that particular theme.

Another example could be that in a school setting the children are asked about a project they would like to do and then given the autonomy over that project to decide how they would go about achieving the learning outcomes and how they would like to present the project.



Applied activity:

Observe and make notes on how the early years educators in your current setting involve children in their own planning.

Your notes could include the answers to the following questions:

- What age group are you observing?
- What method/s is the adult using to involve children and young people in their own planning?
- Is it one to one, or is it in small or class groups?
- What type of questions is the adult using?
- Who is doing the most in the way of speaking?
- Is the adult using visual/audio/video aids?
- What emotions/moods/expressions are the children showing?
- Was this a successful activity? If not, why not?
- Speak to the adult in charge and get feedback on their thoughts about the activity.

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Communicating clearly, using positive and appropriate language for age and stage of development

To be able to effectively communicate with children and young people you should adapt your communication skills to meet the needs of the individual child or young person.



Language

When talking to children and young people it is important to use clear and receptive language. Children should feel heard by you when you acknowledge their thoughts, ideas and feelings, and you should take this into account. The way you speak should be appropriate, remembering that just because a child or young person does not necessarily mean that they are at that stage of development. Factors such as a delay in speech or a disability could be factors.

Facial expression and body language

The way we hold ourselves and our facial expressions play an important part in how we communicate. As practitioners and teachers, we should have positive facial expressions, such as smiling and nodding, and positive body language, so good posture, and being at the same level as the child or young person so as not to come across as intimidating.

Proximity

There are times when we would need to be close to a child or young person to communicate on a one-to-one basis, and there are times when we may be giving out instructions from a distance. At all times it is key to gauge a distance by which you try to be close enough to communicate effectively but not too close that the child or young person could feel intimidated.

Giving effective feedback and facilitating children and young people's self-assessment



Giving effective and constructive feedback positively impacts achievement. Formative feedback includes comments aimed at identifying strengths and weaknesses, ultimately enhancing young people's learning and subsequent assessment. Key feedback should be timely; clear and detailed; relevant to the criteria; and interactive. We should also facilitate children and young people to do this by helping them to scrutinise their own work and produce a self-assessment from which they can set their own targets.

Managing own and others' time

As a practitioner or teacher, you should be organised and manage your time productively. This involves working out goals and making a list of priorities, on a PC, phone or Post-it notes, or as a hand-written list on paper, whatever works best for you. Tasks should then be broken down into manageable subtasks, as some tasks can feel overwhelming. Additionally, you should value your time, reward yourself for completing tasks, and be sure to schedule in breaks and rest – you cannot pour from an empty cup!

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To effectively manage others' time involves being experienced and knowledgeable about the activities will take, monitoring the children and young people, allowing extra time for differentiation, and having additional tasks to stretch and challenge those who may prevent children from becoming frustrated or bored.

Research activity:

Effective time management – conduct research into practical ways you can manage your time. Create a plan for the week to include college, your real work environment, and your hobbies you take part in – and don't forget to give yourself some 'rest' time. What could anything be moved or rearranged for your week to run more smoothly and effectively?

Providing nurturing experiences and opportunities for children to be able to express feelings, and how to manage positive behaviour

Classroom management is a key aspect of delivering lessons to children and young people. Behaviour management. To provide an environment where everyone can learn and thrive. Overenthusiastic, or even disruptive, need to be managed effectively. Setting boundaries at the start of an academic year is an effective way to introduce expectations, and these can be reinforced as the child or young person needs reminding.

Observing and assessing individuals, providing interventions through early identification

Observations are carried out continuously by practitioners and teachers – this could be formal or informal, but mostly, it is making a note of something that you have observed that you would like to follow up on. Assessments can also be formative and summative; assessments can be carried out during a lesson to check understanding and consolidation of learning, or at the end of a term to check progress and development.

Early identification of children with additional needs and those who are disengaged or disaffected can help to provide support and interventions to help them get back on track developmentally.



Observations and assessments identify, and help teachers about, which children may benefit from. Through this early identification, interventions can be provided to those children with the additional resources they need to get back on track developmentally.

Engaging disengaged children and young people in their own learning and assessment

At times, children and young people can lose motivation and interest, resulting in disengagement. This can be addressed by involving them in their own learning, such as giving them choices and activities they would like to do surrounding the theme. Engaging children and young people in their own learning and assessment could include peer-marking, creating questions about a subject they are interested in, judging presentations and getting involved in the assessment process.

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Attributes that inform teachers'/practitioners' behaviour and why they are important to effective children and young people's education

There are professional behaviours which teachers/practitioners must adhere to as part of their role, and there are also personal attributes that are important to support children and young people throughout their educational journey.

See the diagram (right) and table (below) for more information on the professional behaviours and why they support children and young people's education.

Applied activity:

Draw a spider diagram with attributes that inform teachers'/practitioners' professional behaviour in the centre. Write as many as you can remember on each leg.

Check your answers. How many out of 10 did you get correct?



Professional behaviour	Why is it important to effectively support children's / young people's education?
Approachability	Children and young people must feel that they are able to communicate their problem or need support.
Confidence	A positive role model for children is an adult that is confident. In turn makes children feel secure and safe.
Empathy	The ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and imagine how they feel. A key skill, and children will benefit by feeling that they are being heard.
Knowledge	Adults should have knowledge specific to the subject they are teaching. They should be up to date with regard to any changes or developments. They should be able to communicate at the appropriate level and use the correct language for that level.
Passion	When teachers and practitioners are passionate about a subject, it encourages children and young people to take an interest and engage.
Patience	This is a vital skill as you must have patience and understanding to adapt, repeat and redesign the way that you deliver content. You must also allow children and young people to express their views in a safe environment.
Positivity	Having a positive attitude towards your role and others' attributes is important. It attracts positive feedback and encourages others to do the same.
Reflection	All practitioners and teachers should be reflective – this is when you think about an activity/lesson/day, etc. and think about what went well, what you did well, and what they would do differently next time.
Resourcefulness	Being able to create masterpieces with extraordinarily little of the practitioner's or teacher's magic powers! It involves thinking outside the box to achieve best outcomes.
Respect for others	As part of equality, diversity and inclusion, practitioners and teachers should show thoughtfulness and respect for all.

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2.2 Revision questions

1. Identify and explain **two** ways in which teachers/practitioners can support children and young people during their education.
2. Explain why giving effective feedback can support children and young people.
3. What is the link between communication and learning?
4. Give an example of the negative impact to a child's learning if the adult has a poor attitude to learning.
5. Edith is 13 years old, and she has started to fall behind in most of her subjects. The pastoral team have had an informal meeting with Edith to try to understand the reason for the decline in her other subjects.

Edith has said that her English teacher, Mrs Lovejoy, makes everything so interesting for her. When Mrs Lovejoy gives her feedback, she is encouraging and helpful. Mrs Lovejoy and is not afraid to put her hand up and answer a question or ask for help.

Discuss the potential impact on Edith's learning and development regarding her attitude to learning from the other subject teachers.

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Chapter 2.3 Theoretical approaches to learning

The way in which children learn, the links to growth and development, and how behaviour changes throughout this process has been researched, and different theories have been developed. The existence of theoretical approaches to learning is a result of the findings of different researchers, such as Pavlov, Bandura and Vygotsky, to name a few. The theoretical approaches to learning help children and young people to predict, observe, plan, develop and explain children's behaviour when learning. Although many approaches complement one another it is also important to note that some are outdated as they were developed in a different socio-economic environment than the modern science.

Behaviourist approach

The behaviourist approach to learning studies the changes in a child or young person's behaviour because of their environment and **external stimuli**, and incorporates the principles of operant and classic conditioning. Based on a scientific approach, the behaviourist approach allows little space for the discussion of mental process and the development of logic over time; additionally, it is thought that the approach tends to be passive, and children and young people are not encouraged to take autonomy over their own learning.

External factors for behaviour may be your biology or your environment.

The difference between classical and operant conditioning

The difference between the two types of conditioning is the timing of the external stimulus. If it occurs **before** the behaviour, it is classical, and if it occurs **after**, it is operant.

Antecedents

The theory suggests that stimuli signal expected behaviour or responses; 'antecedents' are events that occur before or precede a behaviour. Therefore, this aspect of behaviourism falls under classical conditioning. The theorist associated with this aspect of behaviourism is Ivan Pavlov (1849–1936). He is known for his work on classical conditioning, which is not usually employed as a teaching strategy for children.

Pavlov's dog study: The study occurred as a result of an observation from a separate experiment. Pavlov noted that just before the dogs were due to be fed, they started salivating. He decided to test this and so the experiment was formulated. The dogs would hear a bell and then wait for a period of time, the dogs would produce saliva upon hearing the bell, which he called the 'conditioned reflex'.

Pavlov continued the study by ringing the bell, but not feeding the dogs, and after a while the dogs stopped salivating upon hearing the bell. The 'conditioned reflex' was extinguished, which is known as 'extinction'.

Pavlov's studies were only conducted on animals; however, his work encouraged other researchers to conduct experiments that would uncover the theory of operant conditioning.

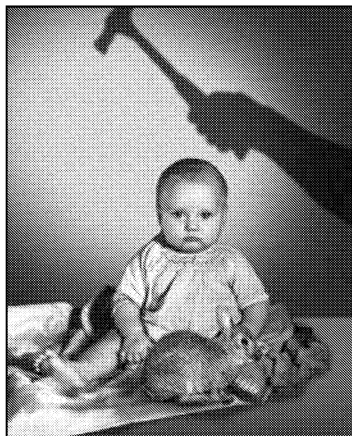
Consequences

The theory suggests that a stimulus is used to encourage or reduce the occurrence of a behaviour. Behaviourism also falls under classical conditioning theory, and the research conducted by B.F. Skinner (1878–1958), who built upon Pavlov's dog study by conducting an experiment on rats.

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Watson's 'Little Albert' experiment: The study was conducted on a nine-month-old boy called 'Little Albert' who was surprised by loud noises. Watson and Rayner decided to conduct a study on a human subject. The neutral stimuli used were a white rat and a monkey. Albert showed no fear when exposed to the stimuli. Next time 'Little Albert' was exposed to the stimuli, the hammer was brought together to create a loud noise, which startled him. When the neutral stimuli and the loud noise, 'Little Albert' was exposed to the stimuli. 'Little Albert' had only to be shown the neutral stimuli and he would attempt to crawl away. The experiment showed that conditioning could cause a phobia, as 'Little Albert', who had only a white rat, had now become conditioned to fear it.

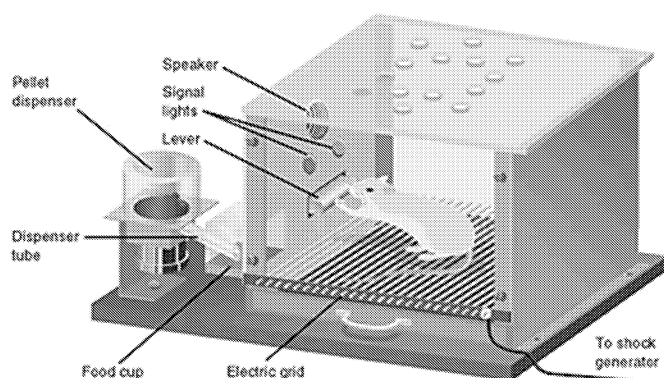
Links to pedagogic practice

Questioning:

- A teacher asks a question to gain a response (antecedent)
- The student responds (behaviour)
- The teacher offers feedback/reward (consequence)

Positive and negative reinforcement

This theory, also identified as 'operant conditioning', covers when behaviour can be changed by its consequences, by way of either positive or negative reinforcement. Theory and experiments on 'operant conditioning' include Edward Thorndike (1874–1949) and his cats and pigeons. Thorndike showed that consequences influenced behaviour, which he called 'law of effect'. B F Skinner (1904–1990) conducted further work on Thorndike's theory on 'operant conditioning' with the 'Skinner's box' experiment.



'Skinner's box' experiment: Skinner created a box that was isolated and surrounded by soundproofing. Inside the box was a lever. When the animal pressed the lever, it would be rewarded with food. When the animal performed a certain behaviour, it would be punished or rewarded. This is the theory of operant conditioning.

Positive reinforcement: this is reinforcement that is likely to encourage a person to repeat a behaviour. Examples of positive reinforcement could include praise, stickers, or a reward.

Negative reinforcement: this is reinforcement that is likely to stop a certain type of behaviour. Examples of negative reinforcements could include the removal of restrictions if a child has improved. For example, a child who has not attempted to climb a fence again after the person was electrocuted the first time.

Case study:

Josephine is 30 months old and has just moved rooms in nursery. She is finding it difficult to settle into the routine of the new room and has been disrupting the routine by screaming and shouting at her key person.

Using the theory of reinforcement, as her key person, why might it be worth ignoring her disruptive behaviour?

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Continuity and motivation

Continuity

The behaviourism approach can be used to form learning and behaviour, but the reinforcement must be repeated, and, therefore, central to long-term associations. For example, if a learner gives incorrect answers to questions, the teacher may choose to praise the effort rather than the correct answer. While the learner may not immediately answer questions correctly after reinforcement, the reinforcement may motivate them to continue participating and eventually improve their performance.

Motivation

The behaviourism approach helps to motivate learners by the reinforcement aspect, such as reward charts or praise – but if this stops, it is likely that the learners will not feel motivated to continue learning activity and the forming of good habits. For example, if a child receives a sticker for a good behaviour which they may add to their sticker chart, this will serve as motivation to gain more stickers.

Therefore, behaviourism is not typically employed as the sole approach to teaching. Learners who are intrinsically motivated to learn, their comprehension and knowledge of information tend to improve without the need for continuous external rewards.

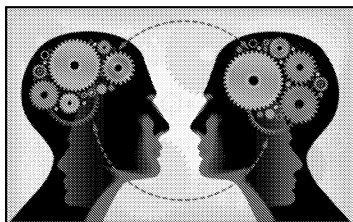
Links to pedagogic practice:

- *Positive reinforcements such as praise and stickers can be used to motivate children to engage in positive behaviour.*
- *Rewards can be given to children to celebrate achievement.*
- *Some behaviours are given no attention so as not to reinforce the behaviour.*
- *Praise is given to encourage effort and behaviour.*

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Cognitive constructivism



The cognitive approach to learning focuses on the place in the brain, and relates to the brain's ability through experiences, thoughts and senses, and is a processing model.

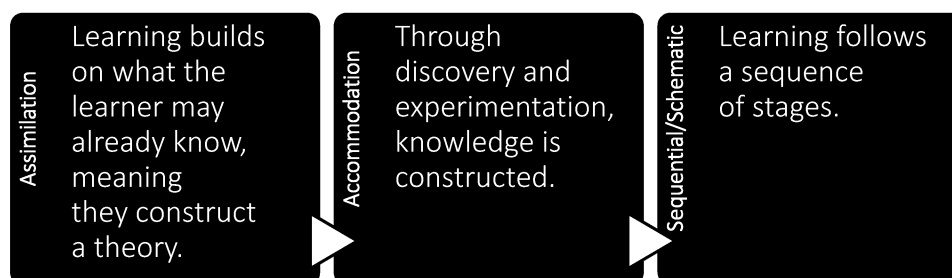
Cognitive constructivism theory

Cognitive constructivism is based on several key principles that shape how knowledge is constructed. These principles include:

- **Mental processes and knowing:** cognitive constructivism emphasises that learning is an active process of mental processes and how individuals make sense of information. It focuses on how individuals construct knowledge in their minds, rather than passively receiving it from the teacher. It recognises the importance of an individual's thinking, perception, and problem-solving in the learning process.
- **Linking new information to prior knowledge:** according to cognitive constructivism, new information is processed and understood by connecting it to existing knowledge and experiences. This involves making connections between what they already know and new information, allowing for a deeper understanding. This process of linking prior knowledge with new information helps in integrating new concepts effectively.
- **Changes in schema as a measure of learning:** schema refers to mental frameworks or structures that individuals use to organise and interpret information. Cognitive constructivism suggests that learning involves modifying or expanding existing schemas to accommodate new knowledge. A change in schema indicates that learning has occurred. As individuals encounter new information and construct new meanings, their schemas undergo revision or refinement, enabling deeper understanding and more complex thinking.

By embracing these principles, cognitive constructivism provides a framework for understanding how individuals engage in the process of acquiring knowledge. It highlights the role of mental processes in constructing new information to prior knowledge, and the significance of schema development in learning.

Diagram: 2.3 Key Features of cognitive constructivism



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Pedagogical approach and how it is applied

There are three main links that cognitive constructivism has to pedagogical approach

High Scope	Established in 1970 in Michigan, USA, High Scope is an educational approach that involves teachers awakening children's interests by providing resources that encourage them to explore materials and interact with them. These resources are matched to the learners' age and stage. The approach focuses on active learning as a foundation for gaining and building knowledge through play and exploration of environments and people.
Project-based learning (PBL)	Learners are encouraged to develop knowledge and skills by working on problems, such as designing a product, and are responsible for finding solutions. The four key phases of project-based learning are: problem identification, development, and presentations.
Virtual reality	Using digital technology to supplement the teaching of a subject. Learning content, learning takes place within a simulated real-world environment where learners directly interacts with objects and tests out their ideas and actions of their actions.

Underpinning evidence

Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development – Jean Piaget (1896–1980)

Piaget created experiments to better understand how children and their cognitive abilities develop over time. He concluded that children develop set patterns of actions and thinking which they use to draw conclusions about the world in which they live. These are now known as schemas. As children go through processes of absorbing new information and then new schemas are formed. They are 'constructing' their thoughts, hence the 'constructivist' approach to their thinking as children grow and are exposed to new experiences. Piaget grouped cognitive development into four general stages.

Piaget's stages of cognitive development:

Stage	Feature	Explanation
Sensorimotor (0–2 years)	Object permanence Use of symbols	During this stage, children are naturally curious about sensory experiences and the world around them. They develop object permanence, understanding that objects continue to exist when out of sight. Additionally, they begin to use symbols, realising that words are representations of world objects and ideas, all while developing fine motor responses.
Preoperational (2–7 years)	Symbols used in play Egocentrism Animism Inability to conserve	Children use symbolic thinking to represent objects, such as using a stick as a wand. They are also unable to see things from someone else's perspective, only from their own way they think and see the world. They believe objects have feelings. Their imagination is strong, and they may treat objects as if they have feelings: 'My table, naughty table.'
Concrete operations (7–11 years)	Ability to conserve Solve mental problems with concrete objects	Children can problem-solve with tangible objects, such as using blocks as counters. Their ability to conserve is limited to concrete objects, such as a short, wide glass and a tall, thin glass. They understand that the amount of water is the same, whereas previously they thought the taller glass held more liquid.
Formal operations (11–15 years)	Solve mental problems using abstract thought Ability to analyse and hypothesise	Young people can problem-solve using abstract thought, for example, 'in their head', and are able to form and test a hypothesis because they can apply logical reasoning to a new idea.

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Applied activity:

Piaget suggested that schemas are not limited to the way we think about things, actions; for example, what you do when you first wake up, the order in which you wash your face or brush your teeth.

When in the real work environment, have you seen any examples of physical schemas? examples of physical schemas?

Bruner's Three Modes of Representation – Jerome Bruner (1915–2016)

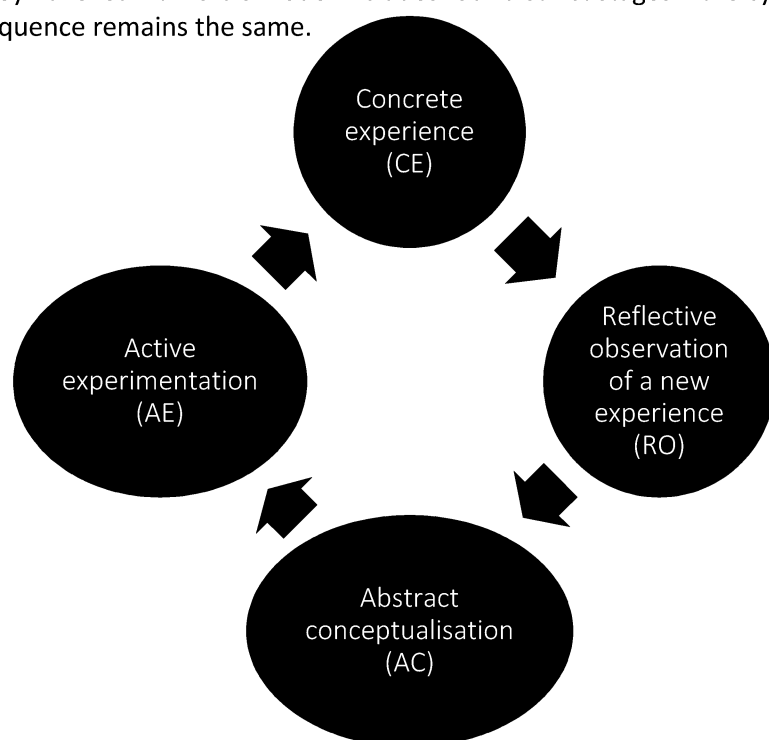
Influenced by the work of Vygotsky and Piaget, Bruner suggested that there were three modes of representation. Children acquire these modes of thinking over time, as shown in the table below.

Enactive 0–1 years	Children learn through physical movements and actions.
Iconic 1–6 years	Children learn through images and icons, e.g. thinking about a picture in their head or looking at picture books.
Symbolic 7+ years	Children learn by encoding thinking using symbols and language for research purposes.

Bruner also suggested that adult play is a significant role in children's development. Children can understand most concepts so long as they were delivered at an appropriate age and in a way known as the spiral curriculum. In addition to the spiral curriculum, Bruner believed in learning through 'discovery learning', where adults are the facilitators in providing environments for children to 'discover', as opposed to the 'rote learning' or 'chalk and talk', where adults are writing on a board, where there is no learner participation.

Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle – David Kolb (1939–)

David Kolb, an American theorist, published the experiential learning theory (ELT) which states that learning occurs after a person has experienced something new, and then reflects on what they have learnt. Kolb's model includes four distinct stages – the cycle can be seen in the diagram below. The sequence remains the same.

**Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle – David Kolb (1939–)**

Concrete experience (CE)
The learner has a direct experience of a situation or activity.

Reflective observation (RO)
The learner reflects on the experience and what they have learnt from it.

Abstract conceptualisation (AC)
The learner forms abstract concepts and generalisations from the experience.

Active experimentation (AE)
The learner tests the concepts and generalisations in a new situation.

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Bloom's Taxonomy

The revised version of Bloom's taxonomy is a constructivist pedagogical device that helps to help define learning outcomes for children and young people. It emphasises the importance of knowledge and skills through 'active learning' and can aid the development of assessment by scaffolding the delivery.

CREATING – Using the information to create something new.

EVALUATING – Reviewing and making judgements.

ANALYSING – Looking at all aspects and identifying common factors.

APPLYING – Applying the information to a new situation.

UNDERSTANDING – Comprehension of instructional materials.

REMEMBERING – Recollecting specific facts.

Social constructivism

The social constructivism theory also believes that children are 'active learners' and that learning is because of exposure to real-life experiences and activities. Specifically, the social constructivism theory states that older children or adults play a significant role as the more experienced others, helping to scaffold the learning process.

Key features of social constructivism

Active	Children and young people learn through socially interacting and learning from their own experiences with peers or teachers.
Interactive	The development of children and young people's knowledge is dependent on the quality of real-life experiences and interactions with others.
Environment	The environment in which children and young people live and learn, and the culture of the society can influence the value of their interactions.

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Pedagogical approach and how it is applied

Social constructivism significantly influences pedagogical approaches by emphasising interaction and collaboration in the learning process. It recognises that learning is not just a transmission of knowledge but is deeply influenced by the social and cultural context in which it takes place. Social constructivism informs pedagogical approaches:

Enquiry-based learning	Modelling	Flipped learning	Commentary	sh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned activities to provoke curiosity. Interaction between peers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult involved in play. Adult models how to complete a task while child observes. Child practises the task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily accessible learning materials provided. Teacher observes exploration and scaffolds. Differentiation included to make it accessible for all. Formative assessment used throughout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking through activities introducing new vocabulary. Explaining verbal thought processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I s a C C m

True or false?

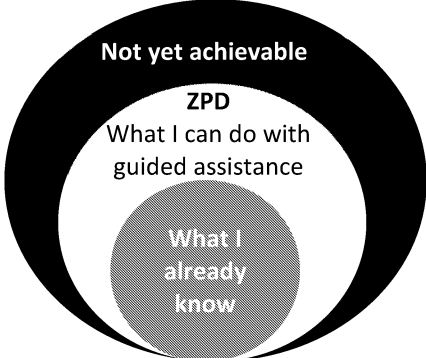
Schools should focus on a curriculum aimed at constructing knowledge as children are skilled at constructing and interpreting new knowledge with the support of the teacher.

Underpinning evidence

Theorist/Approach	Explanation
Bergmann and Sam's Flip Your Classroom	The idea of the flipped classroom existed before it was popularised by Chemistry teachers Jon Bergmann and Aaron Samson. They argued that learning materials can be introduced before the lesson, and they can gain a basic understanding of the subject matter. This can be done through a webinar, distribution tools such as YouTube, pre-recorded research papers and web content, and, of course, traditional methods such as books and articles. This then allows the 'flipped' learners are in the classroom there is more time available for discussion, collaboration, peer-based and problem-solving, with the teacher being more of a facilitator and guide. This allows students to and reflect and use this as a stepping off point for further learning.

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Theorist/Approach	Explanation
Bruner's Discovery Learning	<p>Introduced by Jerome Bruner, this theory encourages learners to use their own knowledge and past experiences – they need to use their own search for new information to make new truths. Rather than providing answers, it suggests that learners should actively seek answers to solve problems. This theory is comprised of five principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 1: Problem Solving – learners actively seek to solve problems by undertaking activities that probe, requiring calculated risks. • Principle 2: Learner Management – teachers should allow learners to work at their own pace, whether this be working alone or with a group. The teacher sets constraints and allows learners to take control of and manage their own learning. • Principle 3: Integrating and Connecting – involves teaching learners to combine previously learnt knowledge with new, and to apply this to real-world scenarios. This will enable learners to extend their thinking and develop new ideas. • Principle 4: Information Analysis and Interpretation – a process-orientated approach. Learners, upon receiving information, must first carry out an analysis, understand and acquire new knowledge before they can move forward without understanding its content. • Principle 5: Failure and Feedback – we learn when we fail. If we fail, we try again, or else, a different approach, looking at it from another perspective. This theory does not focus on the end result but on the learning process and processes, the teacher provides developmental feedback to help learners move forward.
Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)	 <p>The zone of proximal development (ZPD) is the difference between what a child can do independently and what they can do with help from an adult or more knowledgeable peer. It is the area where learning occurs. The diagram shows three concentric circles: the outermost circle represents 'Not yet achievable', the middle circle represents the 'ZPD' (Zone of Proximal Development) where 'What I can do with guided assistance' is possible, and the innermost circle represents 'What I already know'.</p>

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Connectivism

The connectivism theory is a new learning theory which was first introduced in 2005 by Stephen Downes. The theory suggests that technology is a key component in learning, as it allows learners to combine data, thoughts and theories in a useful manner. The theory emphasizes the role of learners and technology, which gives us a plethora of opportunities to choose how we learn. It includes peer collaboration and discussions allowing unique perspective to be aired in a supportive environment. It promotes learning through multiple aspects of technology, such as online networks, social media, and databases.

Theory

Connectivism theory is comprised of the following key components:

1. Technology

Digital technology is changing what and how we learn, and supports many newer theories. Today, we are connected to the world via fibre-optic technology, giving us access to online information and communities of learning. Connectivism emphasizes the use of technology and online platforms to facilitate learning, collaboration, and the creation of new knowledge.

2. Nodes and Links

Connectivism recognises the importance of networks in learning. It acknowledges that knowledge is distributed across various sources, such as people, websites, online communities, and resources. These objects are known as nodes. Learners are encouraged to actively participate in the network, seeking information, collaborate, and construct knowledge, understanding that the network is paramount.

Learning involves connecting new information to existing knowledge, linking different perspectives. The theory highlights the importance of understanding the relationships between nodes and how they emerge through these connections. When we make these connections, or 'link' them, learners establish and maintain connections to form new knowledge. Therefore, connectivism is not just about what knowledge is, but also where to find knowledge and how to connect it.

3. Currency

Currency refers to the relevance and timeliness of information in a rapidly changing world. Connectivism recognises that the value of information can diminish or information can become obsolete. The theory recognises the importance of identifying current and up-to-date information, as well as emerging trends and developments. The theory is focused on 'the process' of learning rather than the acquisition of knowledge.

4. Informal

Formal learning is no longer seen as the core way knowledge is acquired. Before, knowledge was seen as being passed from receivers of knowledge, whereas with connectivism, knowledge is dispersed and learning is based on connectedness inform learning. Informal learning can happen through conversations, hobbies, or personal interests, or participating in online communities. The role of informal learning in supplementing and enhancing formal education, and fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange in online networks and communities.

Pedagogical knowledge and how it is applied

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are online courses designed to be accessible to a large number of learners. MOOCs offer a flexible and scalable approach to education, allowing learners to access course content and resources from renowned universities, institutions, or experts.

Massive	There can be over 100+ learners on the course.
Open	The courses are available for any learner, anytime, anywhere.
Online	All course content is delivered via the Internet.
Course	Course content can feature a mix of traditional course materials.

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Social networking

Often, when a group of learners find themselves in the same class, they will set up where they can exchange information informally, chat to each other about the lesson content, pass on messages and chase absenteeism, enabling them to take control

Gamification

Online applications such as Kahoot, Baamboozle, Quizlet Live and Gimkit can act as interactive plenary activities, with consolidation of learning, tasks and assignments into fun competitions.

Applied activity

Create a quiz about theories for gamification using Baamboozle

Immersive learning

This is when learners are given a task with which they can engage themselves to find, consider and make connections between knowledge that can be in the digital

Underpinning evidence

Downes' Modernised Learning Delivery Stages:

Downes' research was in conjunction with the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) to increase, modernising and making more effective the current online programme. They suggested that activities should be amalgamated into the current delivery to be in the presence for learners. Downes focused on mobile devices, virtual libraries, video and online delivery.



Did you know?

'I want and visualize and aspire towards a system of society and learning where each person is able to rise to his or her fullest potential without social or financial encumbrance'

Downes, 2011

Siemens' learning theory for the digital age and Massive Open Online Courses:

This theory is based upon the framework that learning is supported by networks. Traditional methods of teaching are suggested to be outdated as they do not adapt and lack learner contributions and judgements. The traditional classroom is left for knowledge-rich huge networks and connections that can be made via technology. The pedagogical approach known as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has emerged to design and guide their own learning journeys.

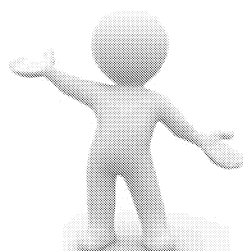
Lave and Wenger's Community of Practice:

Communities of Practice (CoP) are comprised of three components; these include the domain, a shared area of interest; the community, to share and exchange, and engage in activities; and the practice, or practitioners, who develop and share resources and useful tools, provide expertise, and facilitate as well as participate in problem-solving. CoPs are groups of people who have a similar interest and want to learn how to improve their knowledge and skills related to that interest. CoPs are, therefore, a process of social learning, often using an online platform to share knowledge, encourage innovation, and find solutions.

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Humanism



The humanism approach to education is based on the key view being that people are good and should focus on the 'whole' child, inclusive of the welfare of the child, who is inherently thirsty for knowledge. For example, if a child is hungry, tired or cold, the teacher should pay attention to learning. The role of the teacher is to ensure that the child's needs are being met within the educational environment.

Theory

Humanism theory is comprised of the following key concepts that are interrelated:

Theory	Application
Holistic learning	It is a learning approach in which learners construct knowledge through their own unique intellect, feelings, values and experiences. It is an effective and a 'whole' learner development. It identifies the importance of acquiring knowledge but also about personal growth and the integration of various aspects of one's life.
Student-centred	Personalised learning that meets learners' own individual needs. The teacher's role is to facilitate and scaffold rather than deliver information. It caters to the unique needs, interests and abilities of each student and empowers the individual student. It empowers students to take ownership of their learning.
Self-actualisation	Is a central concept of the theory in which a person achieves their full potential. However, this is only achievable if their needs are met from the first instance.
Agency	Agency refers to the capacity to act independently. To achieve self-actualisation, learning is to intentionally seek knowledge, exploration and discovery.



Did you know? Student-centred learning has been defined as 'an approach to learning in which the student chooses not only what to study but also how and why that topic might be of interest to them'.

Pedagogical approach and how it is applied

Humanism theory in education is centred around the belief that education should be for the whole person and their unique abilities, interests and potential. It emphasises the student's role in initiated learning, personal growth, and individual autonomy. In pedagogical approach, the following principles are commonly applied:

Safe and nurturing environment:

The learning environment is one in which the student feels physically and emotionally safe and can, therefore, solely focus on their learning.

Student-initiated:

Learning is directed by the student, who is given the freedom to manage their own learning experience.

The teacher's role is to facilitate this emotional and intellectual growth.

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Underpinning evidence

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems: Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, later renamed the bioecological theory, is based on the belief that children's development is influenced by a wide range of environmental factors. The systems are made up of five parts:

1. **Microsystem:** the immediate environment; for example, parents, siblings, teachers and friends.
2. **Mesosystem:** is the relationships within the microsystem, how they can positively or negatively affect a child's development, e.g. if a child does not like their teacher this can affect their learning.
3. **Exosystem:** is where events, people and places not directly connected to the child can affect their development. For example, a parent may lose his or her job, and this can affect the family unit, and stress and arguments may affect the parents' interactions with the child.
4. **Macrosystem:** is concerned with the wide environment such as culture, religion, politics, etc. There are countries where there is limited access to healthcare and where education is compulsory after the age of 12; conversely, in a country like the UK (United Kingdom), children must remain in education until 18 and the NHS allows free access to health services.
5. **Chronosystem:** recently, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the country to lock down, which stopped children from attending educational settings. This has indirectly impacted the child's education at that time, and the educational system and its students are still recovering from the country's economy.

Applied activity:

Conduct research into Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems. Can you identify all the aspects of the system included? Put yourself in the shoes of a child and come up with examples of the five parts that make up your ecological system.

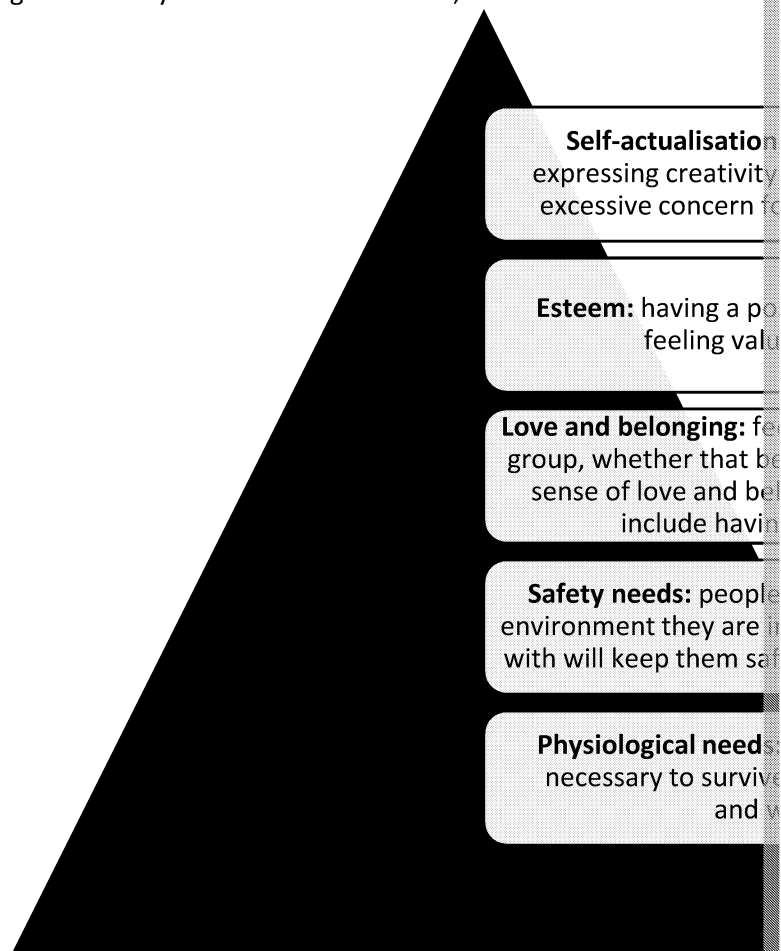
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989):

This convention has been signed by 196 countries worldwide. The convention is based on the rights of a child's rights regardless of where they live or their circumstances. Article 12 of the 'child', states that 'Every child has their right to express their views, feelings and opinions, and have their views considered and taken seriously'. There are also articles that outline the rights and how education should teach children to show respect to and be respectful of their culture and the environment in which they live.

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Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Maslow created the hierarchy of needs, a set of five levels of needs, with the highest need, self-actualisation. Maslow submits that the basic needs must be met before moving through the stages until they reach self-actualisation, as below.



Carl Rogers' Freedom to Learn: In his book of the same name, Rogers identifies the need for children and young people to experience meaningful learning. This involves meeting the wants and needs of the child and focuses on a positive learning environment; this can also be referred to as **experiential learning**. Rogers identified five elements of experiential learning. They were:

1. **Quality of personal involvement:** when the learner engages with both their own and the learning process.
2. **Self-initiated:** through exploration and discovery a child can find stimuli which they can investigate, comprehend and make sense of.
3. **Persuasive:** it changes the child, it makes a difference to their behaviour, their attitudes and their beliefs.
4. **Evaluated:** did this experience meet the child's needs, will it lead to more learning, will the knowledge take them?
5. **Essence in meaning:** the knowledge gained leads to a whole new experience.

Experiential learning is a process of learning through experience.

Applied activity:

Research humanism – what are the six key features of holistic learning?

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2.3 Revision questions

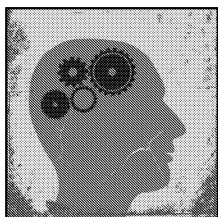
1. Which approach is based mostly on a teacher's direct instruction?
2. Outline the **three** areas of Vygotsky's zone of proximal development and identify the approach it belongs to.
3. Explain what is meant by cognitive constructivism.
4. Explain the **three** ways in which the humanist approach can be seen in education.
5. Ethan is sitting in his Child Development class. The teacher has a PowerPoint presentation on the three prime areas of development, and she is giving the class an explanation of each of them. The students are to make notes as they work their way through the presentation. After this she gives them a task to complete. She walks around the classroom and Ethan asks for some direction. The teacher's task is to get into groups and present the three prime areas of development. The students and classmates can decide the best way to present the information. The teacher's focus is on Ethan and his classmates to think for themselves.
 - a) Identify which theoretical approaches are being used.
 - b) Explain how each approach supports Ethan's learning.
 - c) Evaluate how effective this way of learning could be for Ethan's development.

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Chapter 2.4 How metacognition supports children and young people to manage their own learning



Metacognition is a term that was first introduced in 1979 by Flavell. It was developed further in the 1980s by researchers working with children and young people's cognitive development. Put simply, metacognition is thinking about something that we do every day without being aware of. It is a process of using our own thoughts to enable us to understand and manage our feelings and emotions.

Metacognition:

understanding and being aware of your own thought processes.



Research activity:

Conduct further research into metacognition and its importance.

- What is the root of the term metacognition?
- What are the two key elements of metacognition?
- What are the two types of metacognition?
- What is a key factor in metacognition that we all possess in order to successfully utilise it?

The importance of metacognition

Do you remember a time when you were listening to your teacher in class and then suddenly you became distracted with thoughts of something else? When you realised you had done this, were you able to bring your thoughts back into the classroom and focus on the task in hand? If so, this is the skill of metacognition, when we are thinking about our thinking. Metacognition incorporates a wide range of strategies that we use to help us develop our concentration and memory and improve our learning.

Strategies to support children and young people to manage their own learning

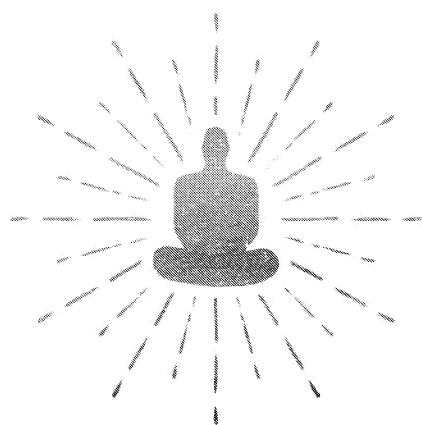
When we think about thinking, we are reflecting on our learning and experiences of learning. Here are some of the strategies children could use:

Strategy	Explanation
Identify the strengths and areas for development in their own learning	Metacognition skills can help children and young people to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. To develop their understanding children and young people must recognise their weaknesses and be able to plan how to progress.
Use cognitive strategies to 'construct' knowledge	Making connections between separate pieces of information to form a new concept is how we use cognitive strategies to construct knowledge. Children build upon their previous experiences, for example.
Use metacognitive strategies to regulate and evaluate their own learning	Motivation is a key factor in metacognition. Children must be able to not only identify what they have found out, but also to 'motivate' themselves to take the next steps into action.

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'Thinking about thinking.'

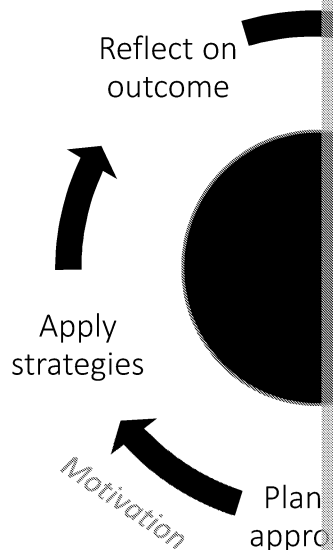



Figure: The meta

How metacognition positively impacts children to manage their own education and achievement

Metacognition skills develop over time and help children and young people to become more effective learners. As children's memory and analytical skills develop, they can start to effectively manage their progress. Utilising metacognition strategies can have a significant positive influence on the learning of children and young people. Learners who employ metacognition are more likely to achieve higher levels of their cognitive abilities and academic achievements would suggest.

Adults should support children and young people to develop their metacognition skills by encouraging them to complete an activity, providing an environment free from distractions, discussing their progress, reflecting on them in the past, and asking questions which will encourage independent thinking.



Met Thin

- I think about...
- I'm thinking...
- I'm noticing...
- I'm wondering...
- I'm seeing...
- I'm feeling...
- I predict...
- I'm remembering...
- I'm picturing...

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Building a set of transferable strategies and skills that can be applied in different contexts and situations

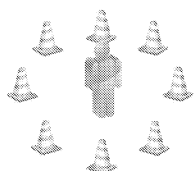
Children and young people that can effectively apply and use their metacognition skills to assess their experiences and link them with new situations using the correct strategies to assess the task.

Better preparation for assessment

Standardised testing and assessments are used to ascertain children and young people's knowledge and understanding of a subject or theme. To achieve the best possible results, learners should ensure that they revise for the test/assessment. Learners who can effectively use metacognition strategies can assess the task, evaluate their areas for development, plan an approach, and apply strategies to help them remember the content for the test/assessment.

Monitoring their own understanding

As well as using metacognition strategies to assess the task, evaluate areas for development, and apply strategies, children and young people can use metacognition skills to reflect on their learning task. They can see gaps in knowledge, **and** know how to rectify this, such as by asking for research, or even repeating the task.



Identifying barriers to their own learning and understanding

By using their metacognition skills effectively, children and young people can identify the barriers in which they learn best. This includes what would serve as a barrier to the information to be delivered, and the techniques that they use to access that information and are able to recall it when required.

Learning from mistakes to avoid them in the future

Children and young people learn by trial and error – making mistakes is good! They can use their skills to analyse their errors or mistakes and grow as learners, subsequent to their educational development.

Adapting their learning strategies as appropriate to the task

Children and young people with strong metacognition skills have identified ways in which they can use correct strategies to support them; they are, therefore, able to adapt and utilise the strategies to the task at hand.

Case study: Zoe and her best friend Ariba are in secondary school and have been in the same Literature class together. The class have been asked to write a book report on a book they have just finished reading. Zoe and Ariba both adored the book but don't recall the main points. Zoe decides to break down the task and make a plan. She reviews the main points of the book, makes an outline for her report, and this in turn makes completing the report easier. Ariba puts off the book report until the night before it's due. Tired and anxious, Ariba reads the book and writes the report in one go.

Applied activity:

- Who has used their metacognition skills most effectively?
- Who is more likely to achieve the higher grade for their book report?
- How have adults helped the girls to develop their metacognition skills?

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2.4 Revision questions

1. Define the term 'metacognition'.
2. Explain **two** strategies that can be used to support children's own learning.
3. Give **one** example of a metacognition 'thinking stem'.
4. Describe **two** ways adults can support the development of metacognition skills in young people.
5. Joseph has just started Year 7 in a secondary school. He studies 10 different subjects with 10 different teachers. This is quite different from his experience in primary school, where he had only one teacher. He felt that he understood all the information he received, but now he is struggling to keep up.

How can children and young people identify barriers to their own learning and overcome them?

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Chapter 2.5 How practitioners provide effective feedback and why it is important in supporting children and young people's educational development

Practitioners support children and young people's educational development by providing feedback that helps them to learn and develop their subject knowledge.

Key points for effective feedback

Recent research suggests that constructive feedback positively impacts children and young people's achievement. Formative feedback includes comments aimed at fostering development by identifying strengths and weaknesses, ultimately enhancing the quality of children and young people's learning and subsequent assessment.

Effective feedback should be the following:

Timely: 	To have maximum impact and effect, feedback should be given promptly. The learner will respond positively and can apply what has been suggested, which will improve the learner's subject knowledge. Conversational feedback motivates the learner as they are still engaged in and interested in the subject, so they can recall the information more effectively.
Clear and detailed:	Effective feedback should involve a constructive dialogue that focuses on specific areas for improvement.
Relevant to criteria:	Most of the teaching is usually to a specification with criteria that learners must successfully complete the qualification, whether it be SATs (Standard Assessment Tests), violin grading, or a referee or coaching certificate. Learning experiences should utilise various teaching methods to ensure learner engagement and understanding. To see how the lesson or session relates back to the relevant criteria, learners should be aware of what they need to do to achieve.
Action-orientated:	For learners to develop, effective feedback should include areas for improvement linked to actions, such as spelling and grammar (SPAG), expansion of content to meet the command verbs, or questions to answer to understand the task better. These actions should be clear, and the learners should be given a sufficient timescale to complete them.
Ongoing: 	Children and young people should be involved in giving and receiving feedback and to maintain motivation and for learning to be continuous and ongoing. This process should encourage learners to be reflective and continually develop.
Interactive:	For effective feedback to be interactive, there should be a two-way dialogue between teacher and learner, in the form of direct questioning and stretching questions to develop their answers. When this process runs smoothly, and learners are encouraged, then this can help with their belief in self and motivation.

Case study: There is a large cohort of learners enrolled on Level 3 Childcare and sixth-form college. The learners come from a wide range of backgrounds and different schools. Their previous knowledge is varied as some undertook a Level 2 Childcare qualification, part of the GCSEs and others have not had any previous experience of the subject. This is their first formative assessment.

Applied activity:

- Do the learners require feedback from their first assessment?
- If so, why is it important that the learners are given action-oriented feedback?
- Should the teacher give generalised or individual feedback?
- How can the teacher make the feedback interactive?

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2.5 Revision questions

1. Define 'action-orientated' feedback.
2. Outline **one** reason it is important for feedback to be 'ongoing'.
3. Explain **two** ways in which 'timely' feedback will benefit the learner.
4. Identify why clear and detailed feedback might impact a young person's progress.
5. Sophia's teacher has handed back a test which she recently undertook – she scored 7/10 and annotated the work 'well done'.

Explain how the lack of developmental feedback affects Sophia's ability to improve in this subject.

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Chapter 2.6 Why up-to-date and appropriate technology is important to effectively support children and their educational development

The term **ed tech** (education technology) refers to the use of technology to support teaching and learning and day-to-day management of education settings.

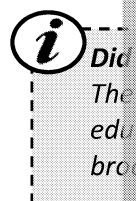
In education settings technology has been woven through the curriculums and frameworks and is used to support and develop learning as well as for sharing information, and partnerships.

Technology is not used as much by early years setting children (EYFS framework) because didactic and concrete play and experiences are key to their development; however, the children's key person and other professionals may use technology to record observations, and take photos and videos to track progress, as well as share information with parents and other professionals. As children progress to primary education and change to the National Curriculum, technology is introduced to develop knowledge, conduct research, and improve technology skills.

How technology may be used to support education

Technology is frequently used in the classroom environment and has many practical uses. Listed below are some of the ways in which technology could be used to support education.

Type of technology	How it may be used to support education
Monitoring children's / young people's progress	Most settings have software or an online platform for other professionals to record and share information. Applied activity – Educational Online Tracking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which online platform is used by you? What is included in the package? How easy is it to use? What do the practitioners think about the platform? What do parents think about the platform? What do you think about the platform?
Ease of sharing information	The software platform used by most settings can be shared with professionals and used to communicate with other professionals.
Using a variety of media to introduce and explore a topic	A topic could be introduced using a video clip, a picture from an online newspaper, using a variety of different applications. Once it is introduced, children can be encouraged to further explore the topic and the several types of media used in this exploration.
Planning and designing suitable online and offline learning materials and assessment	As technology is more frequently used with education, professionals have investigated ways in which they can use technology to support learning. These activities and assessments are normally designed within the framework – for example, the National Curriculum framework – in mind to engage and assess learning.



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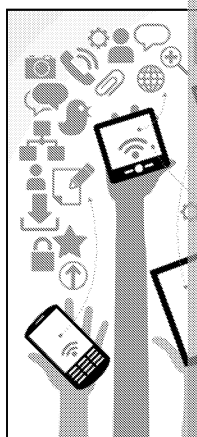
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Type of technology	How it may be used to support education
Equipping children / young people to navigate a vast amount of information and evaluate the validity of sources	As the use of technology is now included in the National Curriculum, children and young people are taught how to access and evaluate online information as they progress through key stages. Understanding that not everything that is online is reliable and that biased information is also a skill to be developed.
Making learning accessible for children / young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	Making learning accessible to children and young people through the use of high-tech communication systems which can be used on a mobile device like a tablet or laptop. These systems can use symbols that produce speech synthesis. Other ways to make learning accessible to children and young people with SEND include using large colour and font sizes, online applications that support text-to-speech, touchscreen technology, and the use of audio books.
Communicating and collaborating safely with children / young people online	Technology opens up communication opportunities in seconds. Children and young people can connect with others on the other side of the globe; they can talk about their experiences. Teachers and other professionals should use technology to help children and young people to 'stay safe online' and discuss the appropriate use of social media.
Modelling legal, ethical and secure methods of assessing/using online data and media	As well as staying safe online and teaching a child about keeping information private, it is the role of the adult to model and teach regarding the legal, ethical and secure methods for using online information such as video clips and website content to support and accompany their work.
Helping to prepare children / young people for future careers and digital citizenship	Technology and social platforms are now part of everyday life. Children and young people receive accurate and up-to-date information and use technology to become proficient in digital skills to help them to achieve their future goals.

Research activity:

In 1999, Dr Sugata Mitra started his 'Hole in the wall' experiment which saw the beginnings of Minimally Invasive Education. Conduct your own research into the experiment. What do you think about the findings?



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2.6 Revision questions

1. What does the term 'ed tech' refer to?
2. In the pre-school room at Rainbow Day Nursery, the Room Supervisor, Katie, has shared information with the children during circle time. When she asks questions, Austin raises his hands and asks, 'Where do babies come from?' This is part of a class project, Life Cycles.

Identify and explain how **two** technology methods can be used to support the development of life cycles.

3. The reception class from Field Cross Primary School are visiting a local zoo. One child identifies an animal as a horse. The teacher, Mrs Abbott, takes a photograph, they look at the photo in more detail and find out more about it – the black and white horse Serkan is so excited!

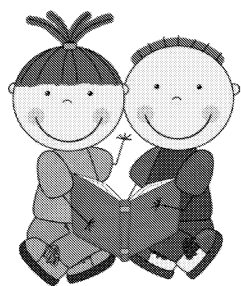
Explain why this is a good example of how technology can build on real-life experiences.

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Chapter 2.7 How personal, educational and environmental factors may affect engagement and development in literacy and mathematics



There are three broad areas that are considered factors that may affect people's engagement in reading, literacy and mathematics. These are core and essential for children and young people to achieve good outcomes for children and young people.

Personal factors

The following are some of the factors that may affect emergence of literacy and mathematics skills.

Level of cognitive and language development	Cognitive development is important for both language and literacy as it relies on the ability of a child or young person to be able to order to speak, read, write and problem-solve. The higher the cognitive level, the more likely the child or young person will be able to speak and write. Language is also needed for mathematics.
Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	There are several factors surrounding children and young people who experience development delay due to a disability or additional needs. They may take longer to grasp concepts. Alternatively, they could be in a setting due to a medical diagnosis and miss a lot of important learning opportunities.
Confidence to try without fear of failure	Luckily, children are optimistic and usually are not fearful of failure. Have you ever seen a baby try to walk, fall, and then give up? Children learn from mistakes. Mistakes are how we learn. If for some reason a child feels that failure is a permanent state, they may miss many wonderful opportunities to learn and develop.
Bilingualism: English as an additional language (EAL)	A person who is bilingual is known to speak two languages. A person who speaks more than two languages is known as multilingual, but this is not always the case for both. A child or young person that speaks multiple languages may have the vocabulary to contextualise and use mathematics terminology.
Physical health and well-being	Children and young people who are happy and healthy are more likely to be in settings more frequently than those who suffer with physical health issues. The better the learner's attendance, the more likely they are to be experiencing all that the curriculum must deliver through their learning.
Motivation and interest	For a child to learn and develop effectively they must be motivated by what they are being taught. A lack of motivation and interest can hinder development as they will not be engaging with the material. It is important that teachers and practitioners differentiate and deliver content that captures the interest of all the learners, though this is not always easy when it comes to reading, literacy and mathematics.
Socio-economic circumstances	Children and young people from socially deprived areas may not have the same opportunities as others – their housing could affect their attendance at school, they may not have access to books or they may miss meals, and this can cause a lack of concentration. Because they are hungry and can't focus, they may not be able to engage in activities which will expose them to new literacy and mathematics concepts. Trips to the zoo, library, museum or theatre.
Previous experiences and support	If a child or young person has been encouraged and enjoyed literacy activities in the past, they are more likely to have a positive attitude towards literacy in the future.

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Educational factors

The following are educational factors that could affect children and young people and mathematics:

Research – socio-economic circumstances:

Use government and local authority websites to determine the socio-economic live. Additionally, you could look into schools and the number of free school meals, employment rates, etc.

The quality of teaching and support at varying stages in development

Teachers and teaching support staff are vital at all stages of children and young people and support staff should be highly trained, professional, and motivated to improve young people. A good rapport and relationship between learner and teacher only the learner and prepare them for later life. Listed in the table below are some examples of quality teaching can make a difference at varying stages of development.

Setting/Subject	Reading	Writing
Early Years	Teachers should share books with babies and young children, pointing out pictures and words. In addition, they should develop play and songs around children's favourite stories to prepare them effectively for reading.	Teachers should create inquiry and curiosity in babies and young children around mark making with various materials and on different surfaces. Role-modelling writing for children is also a way to encourage emergent writing.
School	Children are introduced to reading using phonics and mnemonics. They are taught methodically and are supported by supportive and encouraging adults. Once they can sound out and read simple sentences, the world of literature is available to them, and adults can help them to understand and later analyse and reflect upon stories, songs, plays, poems and text.	Adults provide children with enthusiasm and confidence to learn to write using well-established strategies and methods. This will enable children to be enthusiastic towards writing and build their confidence.



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Age- and stage-appropriate materials

The materials and resources used to support children in their learning can be based on concrete experiences. A well-resourced learning environment can provide children with a range of learning experiences and applications. Whether home-made or shop-bought, all materials should be age- and stage-appropriate or they will be ineffective because they are either too difficult or too easy and they get bored quickly.

Use of aids and adaptations

Children and young people with additional needs or disabilities may need aids and adaptations to participate fully in the educational experiences.

Use of synthetic phonics (reading and literacy)

Synthetic phonics is a learning approach used to teach children to read and write by breaking sounds into individual letters and are taught from simple to complex, starting with consonant-vowel combinations. It is a highly structured approach which teachers follow, and children begin by learning simple sounds and not move on to other sounds until they have mastered these; these are: S-A-T-P-L.

Applied activity – Synthetic phonics:

Find out if your placement uses synthetic phonics as an approach to teaching children to read. What programme does it use and are any other methods used alongside it to support children's learning?

Environmental factors

Listed in the table are some examples of environmental factors that could affect children's emergent literacy and numeracy:

Factor	Effect
Exposure to a stimulating, language-rich environment, and resources	Children's exposure to language is extremely significant. The amount they are exposed to language, through books, friends and experiences, makes a significant difference to their mathematical skills. For example, a child aged two and a half living with a mother in a fifth floor flat, who does not yet attend nursery, has less language exposure than a child aged two and a half living with a mother who cannot afford to travel on the bus to various activities. The child with other children, staff, parents and family, taking them to the zoo, and reading storybooks before bed.
Opportunities to practise and apply knowledge	Children and young people should be provided with opportunities to consolidate their learning. This can often be done via practical activities. Sometimes these tasks require the use of a laptop, computer, or tablet, which all may have and so could miss valuable learning opportunities.
Support and involvement from parents or carers, peers, and other professionals	The people involved in children and young people's lives have a significant impact on their development. Having supportive and encouraging parents, carers, peers, and other professionals can help children to develop their literacy and numeracy skills through encouragement, advice and guidance.

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2.7 Revision questions

1. Identify the **three** broad areas that can affect children and young people's engagement with reading, writing and mathematics.
2. How can physical health and well-being affect a child's engagement with reading and writing?
3. How does the quality of teaching and learning support children in early years' development of reading?
4. What are the consequences of not using age- and stage-appropriate materials for reading and writing?
5. Jaxon is five years old and is in reception. His teacher, Mr Thomas, has spoken to the school's SENCO and identified a delay in his literacy development.

How can a language-rich environment impact positively on Jaxon's literacy skills?

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Chapter 2.1

1. Award **1 mark** for any one of the following:
 - Personal, social and emotional development
 - Physical development
 - Communication and language
2. Award **1 mark** for the following:
 - Expectations in each area of development at the end of the EYFS.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
3. Award **1 mark** for:
 - To ensure that the statutory and legal requirements associated with education, safeguarding and well-being of children are being met.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
4. Award **1 mark** for each correctly identified stage and age range, total of **4 marks**
 - Key Stage 1: 5–7 years
 - Key Stage 2: 7–11 years
 - Key Stage 3: 11–14 years
 - Key Stage 4: 14–16 years
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
5. Award **1 mark** for each of the following:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Science

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Chapter 2.2

1. Award **2 marks** for the identification and **2 marks** for the explanation, **up to 4 marks** for the evaluation.
 - Involving children in planning their own learning (1) helps motivation and engagement (1).
 - Communicating clearly, using positive and appropriate language (1), makes learning easier and remembering information easier. (1)
 - Giving effective feedback (1) helps children to know what they are doing and make improvements. (1)
 - Managing own and others' time (1) means lessons and activities will run smoothly.
 - Managing behaviour (1) leaves more time for teaching so children can learn more.
 - Observing and assessing (1) ensures early identification of a child's individual needs.
 - Engaging disengaged children in their own learning and assessment (1) makes them more motivated. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
2. Award **2 marks** for:
 - It can help to identify where a child is performing well (1) and be developed for improvement. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
3. Award **1 mark** for:
 - If communication is unclear to children, they will not be able to remember information.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
4. Award **2 marks** for:
 - Lack of patience can make the child feel they are unable to complete the task and lose motivation. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
5. Award **up to 6 marks** for:
 - Identification of professional behaviours such as approachability (1), patience (1), motivated. (1)
 - Other behaviours such as being knowledgeable (1) about their subject can help children learn more.
 - Negative impact of a lack of patience could mean that Edith may feel frustrated and therefore, carry on with the work not knowing whether she is doing the right thing.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*

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Chapter 2.3

1. Award **1 mark** for identifying the correct theory:
 - Behaviourism
2. Award **1 mark** per each area of ZPD, **up to 3 marks**:
 - What I already know (1)
 - What I can do with assistance (1)
 - Not yet achievable (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*

Award **1 mark** for identifying the correct approach:

 - Social constructivism (1)
3. Award **1 mark** for each correctly outlined purpose, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Cognitive constructivism focuses on a learner making sense of new information which they already know (1) and drawing their own conclusions. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
4. Award **1 mark** for correctly outlining each way and a further mark explaining:
 - Student-initiated (1) learning decisions rest with the student. (1)
 - Holistic (1) the learner's 'whole' being is catered for taking into consideration of education. (1)
 - Safe and nurturing (1) the environment in which the learner is learning to feel safe. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
5. a) Award **1 mark** for each theoretical approach being used, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Adult-led (1) student-led (1)

b) Award **1 mark** for each explanation, **up to 2 marks**:

 - Adult-led so that the Ethan is getting the essential information. (1)
 - Student-led allows Ethan to apply this knowledge and create a personal understanding of his learning. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*

c) Award **1 mark** for each evaluative point, **up to 4 marks**:

 - Mixed approaches help Ethan because he has received the essential information in a safe way, (1) he is then being asked to build upon this knowledge (1) and This helps to motivate Ethan (1) and the other learners as they can take on board the information. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*

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Chapter 2.4

1. Award **1 mark** for any **one** of the following:
 - Understanding and being aware of your own thought processes.
 - Thinking about thinking.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
2. Award **1 mark** for identifying each strategy (1) and **one** mark for each explanation:
 - Identify the strengths and areas for development in their own learning. (1) Children and young people to understand their strengths and areas for development, children and young people must first be aware of their own knowledge and understanding, children and young people must first be able to plan how to progress. (1)
 - Using cognitive strategies to '**construct**' knowledge. (1) Making connections between information to form a new concept is how we use cognitive strategies to learn.
 - Using metacognitive strategies to regulate and evaluate their own learning. (1) In metacognition; children and young people must be able to not only identify what is challenging, and plan what they need to do next, but also to 'motivate' themselves into action. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
3. Award **1 mark** for correctly identifying a stem:
 - I'm thinking
 - I'm noticing
 - I'm wondering
 - I'm seeing
 - I'm feeling
 - I predict
 - I'm remembering
 - I'm picturing
4. Award **1 mark** for each method correctly identified, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Helping them to plan how to complete an activity
 - Providing an environment free from distractions
 - Discussing strategies that have worked for them in the past
 - Asking questions which will encourage independent thinking, such as 'What do you think?'
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
5. Award **1 mark** for each, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Identify the ways in which they learn best
 - Identify way they prefer information to be delivered
 - Identify techniques used to ensure they remember the information and understand it
 - Speak to their teachers about their learning styles
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*

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Chapter 2.5

1. Award **1 mark** for:
 - Direction given to students about specific actions to take to improve.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
2. Award **1 mark** for any of the following:
 - Maintain motivation
 - Feel valued
 - Reflective
 - Opportunities to develop learner's abilities
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
3. Award **1 mark** for any of the following, maximum of 2 marks.
 - Improve subject knowledge
 - Motivate learners
 - Maintain interest
 - Recall information more effectively
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
4. Award **1 mark** for either of the following:
 - It helps learners to know what they need to do and how to improve.
 - They can make better progress, and, therefore, increase their grades.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
5. Award **1 mark** for any of the following, maximum of 2 marks.
 - Sophia is unaware what the correct answers to the three she got wrong
 - She will lose motivation if not given developmental feedback.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*

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Chapter 2.6

1. Award **1 mark** for: 'Educational technology'
2. Award **1 mark** for each correctly identified, and **1 mark** for the explanation of:
 - Monitoring children and young people's progress (1) following a learner life cycle project, checking they understand each stage with a tracker. (1)
 - Easily sharing information (1) with other members of the pre-school team with any member of staff. (1)
 - Using a variety of media to introduce and explore a topic (1) watching educational videos (1)
 - Planning and designing suitable online and offline materials and assessment worksheets on life cycles to consolidate learning. (1)
 - Equipping children / young people to navigate a vast amount of information sources (1) using interactive learning on the life cycle topic. (1)
 - Making learning accessible for children / young people with SEND (1) to ensure all can participate. (1)
 - Communicating and collaborating safely with children / young people on technology for group collaboration activities. (1)
 - Modelling legal, ethical and secure methods of accessing/using online data that children are safe online. (1)
 - Helping to prepare children / young people for future careers and digital information they are reviewing is up to date and to navigate the various sources. (1)
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
3. Award **1 mark** for each point, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Having a camera meant that the experience could be captured (1)
 - Encourages young people to follow up on something that they have seen (1)
 - Introduction to a variety of online sources about a particular subject (1)
 - Can be used as a basis for a whole-class or individual project utilising media research, watch and listen to information about zebras (1)
 - Develop skills to recognise when information is inaccurate or biased (1)

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Chapter 2.7

1. Award **1 mark** for correctly identifying each of the following:
 - Personal, educational, and environmental.
2. Award **1 mark** for each aspect correctly identified, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Children and young people who are happy and healthy are likely to attend frequently than those who suffer with physical and mental illnesses.
 - The better the learner's attendance the more likely they are to succeed, the curriculum must deliver through their teachers and practitioners.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
3. Award **1 mark** for each aspect correctly identified, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Teachers should share books with babies and young children, pointing to words.
 - Teachers should develop play and songs around children's favourite stories for reading.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
4. Award **1 mark** for each point correctly made, **up to 2 marks**:
 - They will be ineffective because they are too hard and put children off learning.
 - Or too easy and they get bored quickly
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*
5. Award **1 mark** for each point correctly made, **up to 2 marks**:
 - Learning to read and write is linked to language development. (1)
 - An environment where adults talk, listen and share books will help Jaxon for literacy development. (1)
 - An environment filled with images and words will help Jaxon to develop literacy.
 - *Accept any other suitable answers.*

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