IDENTIFYING COGNITION AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

IN EARLY YEARS SETTINGS

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| What you might observe | What strategies could be used? |
| * Child shows little involvement and low levels of concentration * Child gives up easily and shows a lack of persistence * Child shows little motivation, enjoyment or sense of achievement * Child seems unable to express/explore their own ideas and thinking * Child does not make links (e.g. between experiences at home and nursery) * Child shows rigidity in play and does not choose how they would like to do things. | * Review planning and provision to ensure that play opportunities and resources are interesting to the individual child and match their interests. * Show a playful attitude and sense of fun when playing with children * Play alongside the child, copying and modelling extended play. * Use reassuring physical cues – facial expression, body language, gesture, sign etc. to encourage effort. * Provide simple play narratives using key words (teddy jumps) * Visual support: photos, symbols, choice boards, now/next boards to suggest and support development of play sequences or routines. * Provide a range of resources that offer an extension to the play (small world, toy animals, mark making) * Use specific motivators: learn what the child really responds to and include it in play situations (food in the home corner etc.) * Provide time for a child to become immersed in an activity * Model the use of simple statements such as “I wonder’ or “what if?’ rather that question. * Make links between experiences or objects explicit using simple language, Makaton signs or photographs. * Be patient with repetitive play – some children need to ‘over learn’ before they are ready to move on. * Always offer a choice (when appropriate) e.g. bubbles or glittery water – even if you know the child will always choose the glittery water! * Use objects or picture to make the choice if the child is non verbal * Ensure that the child sees other children playing in different ways.   **Possible resources:**  Leuven Involvement Scale  Choice boards/ Now and Next Boards/ Visual cues/ Makaton |