

Hi my name is Lyn Bowen and I'm a teacher here at Picnic Point. I started using the Learning Pit a year or two ago now and since then I found that the children their response is always an excitement about the next challenge I often say to the kids are you up for the challenge and those things yes we are I ask them questions like can we do this and they say yes I can so I have a lot of little catchphrases in my room that are written on my Learner Qualities but the children refer to constantly so that language now has become totally embedded in our everyday lessons I hear the children speaking to each other using the language that comes from the Learner Qualities and when we're talking about jumping into the Learning Pit I say who needs to jump into the Learning Pit with me the children make that choice themselves they do not worry at all about making mistakes when I ask them about making mistakes they say mistakes are good we can learn from them but the Learning Pit actually gives the children this structure now they can look at the chart and say to themselves I can be brave I can do this I can jump in does not matter if I make a mistake while they're in the pit and we're talking about how to find the answer they're asking curious questions to themselves to each other and we're finding the knowledge we need to know to help climb ourselves out of the pit they talk about building their knowledge and we do a thing like this we talk about building our knowledge up and that building on the knowledge and stepping on those knowledge bricks helps us climb up the mountain and out of the Learning Pit when we're doing that we're always collaborating so that they know they have this feeling that they're not in this with our learning intentions we are making sure that they aware right from the very beginning what it is we are here to learn about then they have a clear focus I have a clear focus and we're both working in the same direction to find the correct answers being in the Learning Pit is a lot of fun they don't look at it as any sort of failure they see it as a time for them to grow all I need to do is ask the children what learner quality do you think you're going to need here how are we going to use that learner quality in the Learning Pit today and they are just using the language as second nature it's becoming so much part of their learning culture that you hear it in the playground you hear children in other classes you'll hear them interacting with each other in class and they're using the words and they're not only just using the words they are understanding how to apply that knowledge that they've learned through the Learner Qualities them asking themselves is this my best work being reflective saying can I improve it sometimes when the children come to me and ask me am I finished and I say I'm not the best teacher you're the best teacher have a look at it ask yourself the questions and you watch them walk away saying is this my best work can I improve this and I just think it's a lovely thing to see that the children become more and more confident in the use of the language and not only the use of the language but the instilling all of it into right across the whole curriculum sometimes just for a little bit of fun for them we grab hands jump down into the pit and the kids just enjoy that experience because they feel like that they're helping each other they're holding someone else's hand and that they've got the support that they need not just from me as the teacher but from each other they know what they need to learn they move forward in the direction they know they need to go in and if they need some help along the way while they're in the Learning Pit they can ask myself or another teacher in the room they can ask a friend who's sitting next to them or their partner in learning or building their knowledge by reading a book so I think now when I sit and reflect myself because not only do I see the children do it I use the Learner Qualities and the learning paid a lot for myself sometimes I have to say to myself you've got to be brave Lyn have a go be gritty don't give up keep going I think I can sit and reflect and think about how I've really improved myself and I can also see the

children improving and being very very aware of how much the Learner Qualities and the Learning Pit has affected and improved all of their learning and not only that but their attitudes to school to learning to home life it's all been magnified by using it's a really really lovely thing to watch.