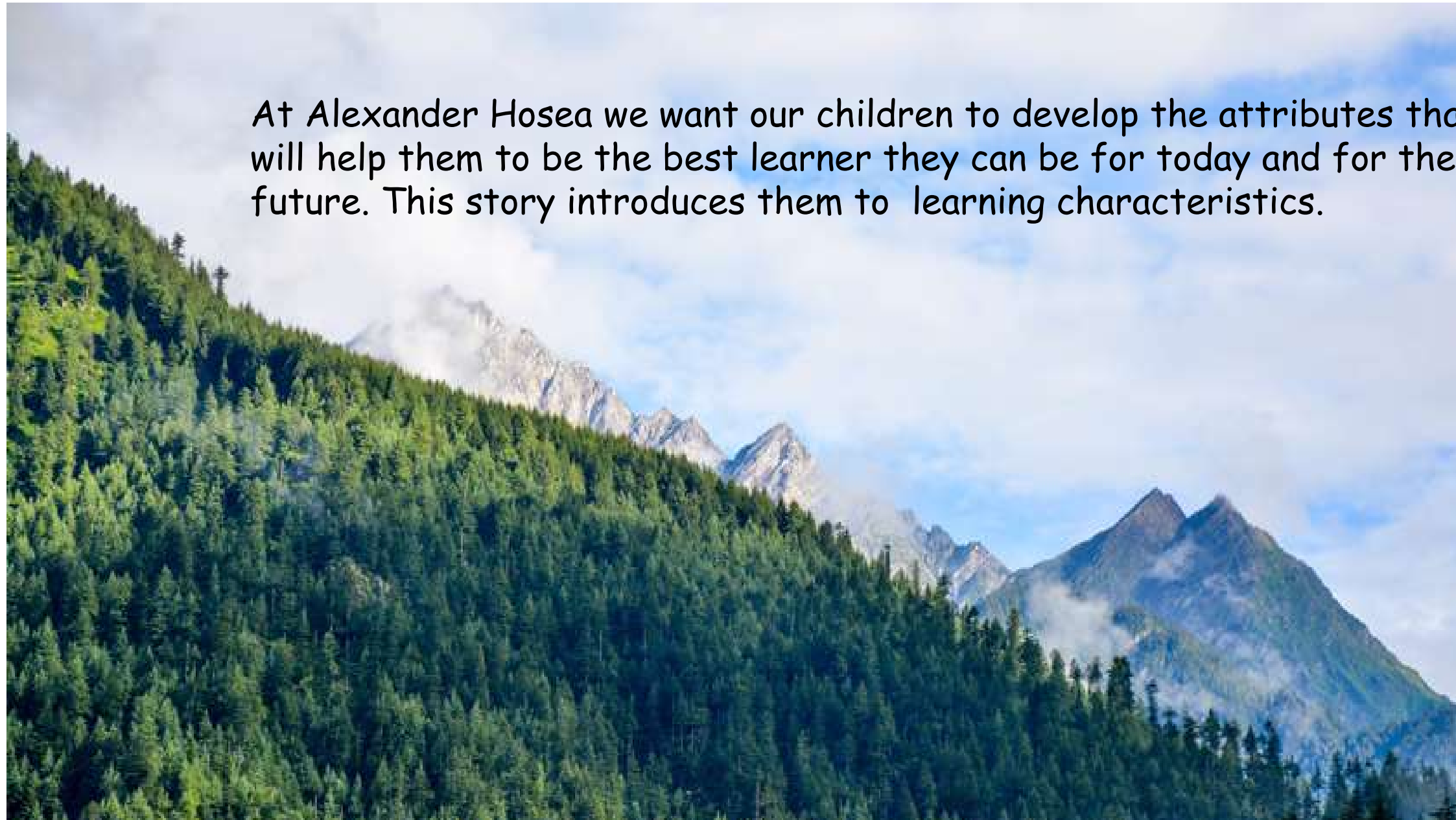




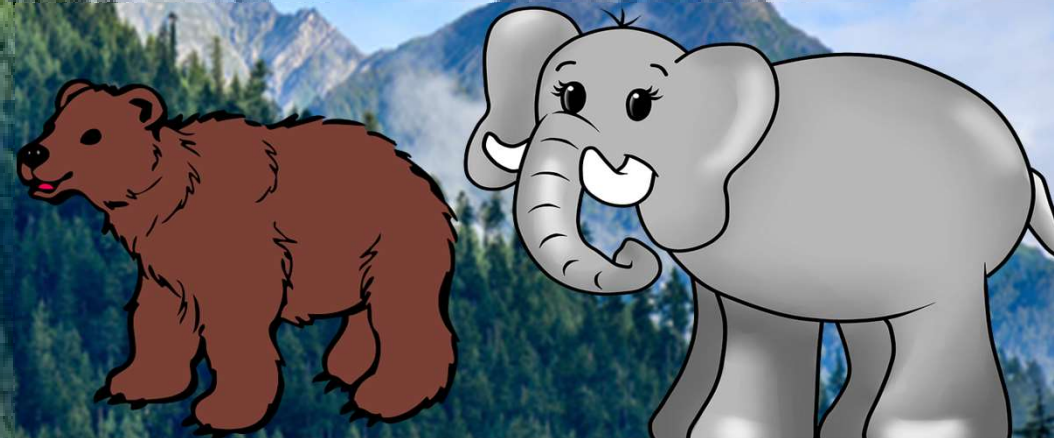
# Our Learning Journey

At Alexander Hosea we want our children to develop the attributes that will help them to be the best learner they can be for today and for the future. This story introduces them to learning characteristics.



Bear wanted a new home.

He knew there were caves in the mountains, but it was tricky to reach them. Bear spoke to his friend ELLI about it. She said that she knew some animals that might be able to help.



As they set off on their journey ELLI said, " The first person we need to talk to is my friend Owl because she flies high in the sky and can tell us the best route to take."

Owl helped them to see that knowing how to get over obstacles in their path would help them to reach their destination safely.



Owls have strategic awareness. They are aware of their thoughts, feelings and actions as a learner and can use that awareness to plan and manage the learning process. They are definitely not a robotic learner.

After a while they were tired and thirsty. Bear wanted to go home. Luckily they came to a stream where they had a drink. As they drank they talked about how they would cross the running water.

ELLI remembered another friend of his, Unicorn; He always had good ideas and would be able to think of a way to get over the river. They looked into the sky and saw Unicorn flying towards them.

"I give you the gift of creativity and imagination so you can think of new ways of solving problems," said Unicorn.

"Thank you," said Bear. Then the Unicorn flew off.



Unicorns like to look at things in different ways, to find another angle. They are playful with ideas and like to use their imagination and inklings which bubble up in their minds.

The animals came to the edge of the forest and Chameleon came down from a tall tree. Bear hadn't noticed him before because he had been the same colour as the tree but now he was bright red. ELLI spotted him too and said, "You are so good at getting used to new things, you can help us.

Chameleon replied, "You need to know that you can change and learn things whenever you are on your journey. "I never get stuck. I can always change my colour and get used to new things.



### Changing and learning

Chameleons know that they can get better at learning over time. They know that through effort their mind can get bigger and stronger just as their bodies can.

"Shall we make a raft or make a bridge?" said Bear.

"Maybe a hot-air balloon or a canoe?"

"Let's make a raft." said ELLI.

"We can tie the branches together with vines."

Soon the raft was finished. They put it in the water and climbed onto it but then it broke and started to sink!

"We need help from another of my friends. He is called Tortoise." said ELLI

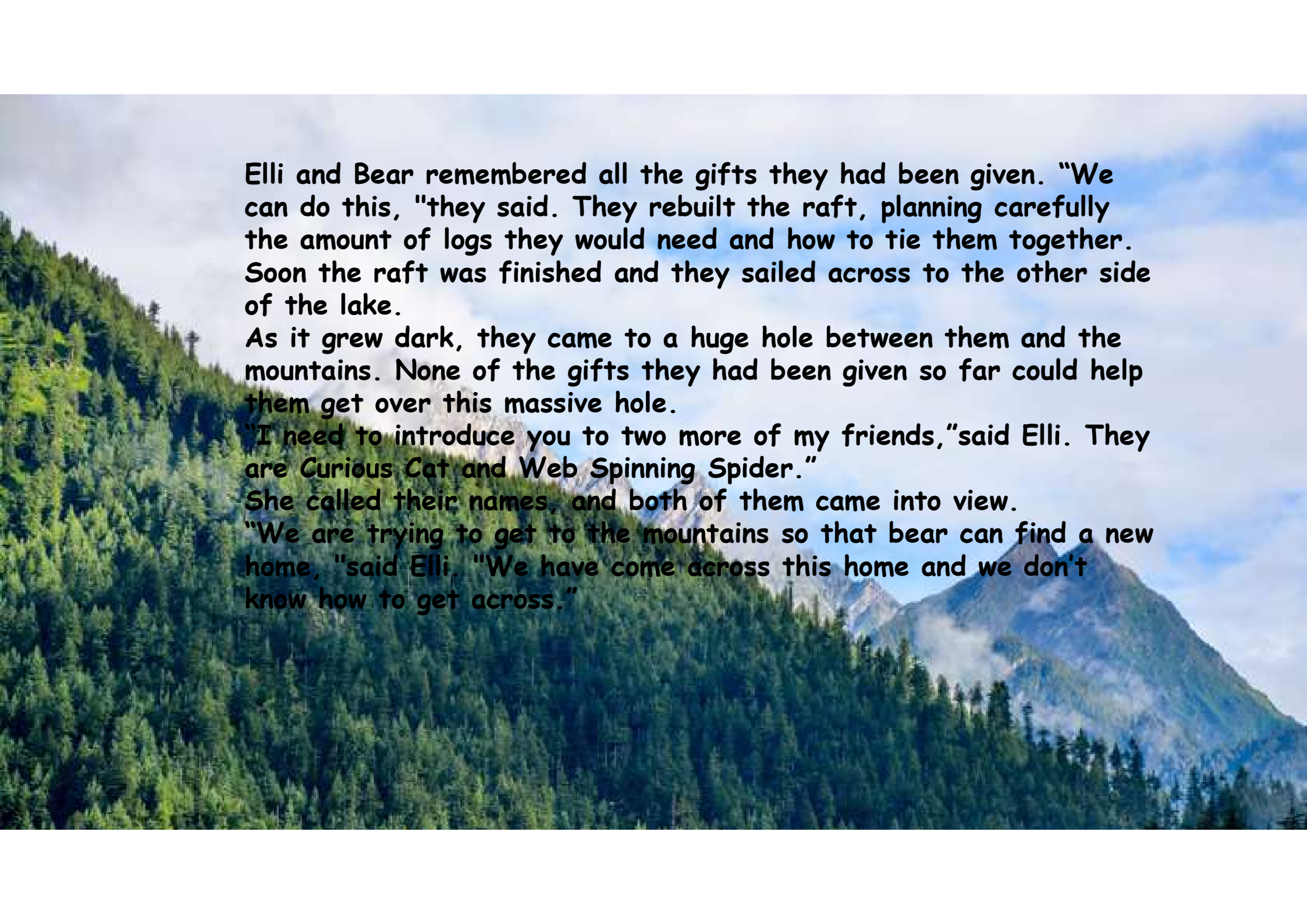
"Hello Tortoise," said ELLI. "Bear and I are trying to get across this big river. We made a raft but it broke. What should we do?"

"What you need," said Tortoise, "is to keep on trying. Some people call this 'stick-ability'. It means you stick to what you are doing and don't give up."



### Resilience

The tortoise loves a challenge and is willing to have a go and keep on trying even when things are tricky. They persevere until a task is completed and accept that learning is sometimes hard for everyone and that to get somethings wrong is ok and part of the learning process.



Elli and Bear remembered all the gifts they had been given. "We can do this," they said. They rebuilt the raft, planning carefully the amount of logs they would need and how to tie them together. Soon the raft was finished and they sailed across to the other side of the lake.

As it grew dark, they came to a huge hole between them and the mountains. None of the gifts they had been given so far could help them get over this massive hole.

"I need to introduce you to two more of my friends," said Elli. They are Curious Cat and Web Spinning Spider."

She called their names, and both of them came into view.

"We are trying to get to the mountains so that bear can find a new home," said Elli. "We have come across this home and we don't know how to get across."



The cat stretched and said, "You must be more curious about the problem. If you ask the right questions you will find exactly how big the problem is, and then you will be able to use the Unicorns gift of creativity to find a way of solving it."



Curious cats like to find things out, to get to the bottom of things and find out what is really going on. They like to ask the question WHY?

“Also,” said Spider, “You need to link your ideas together to make connections inside your head.”



### Making links

Spiders are on the look out for connections between what they are learning and what they already know- from life experiences or previous learning. They like to see how things fit together.

Bear and ELLI sat down and began to use the creativity of the unicorn to make a clever plan. They collected all of the spider webs from the trees and rocks from around them. They wove them together to make a strong catapult. They set the catapult up next to the hole, and were ready to be thrown across when they realised that they needed some more help. "We need the last of my friend, the bees," said ELLI. "They are good at working together in a team." A swarm of bees came from around the corner.



ELLI told them that they needed some help to catapult themselves across the hole. The bees agreed to help.

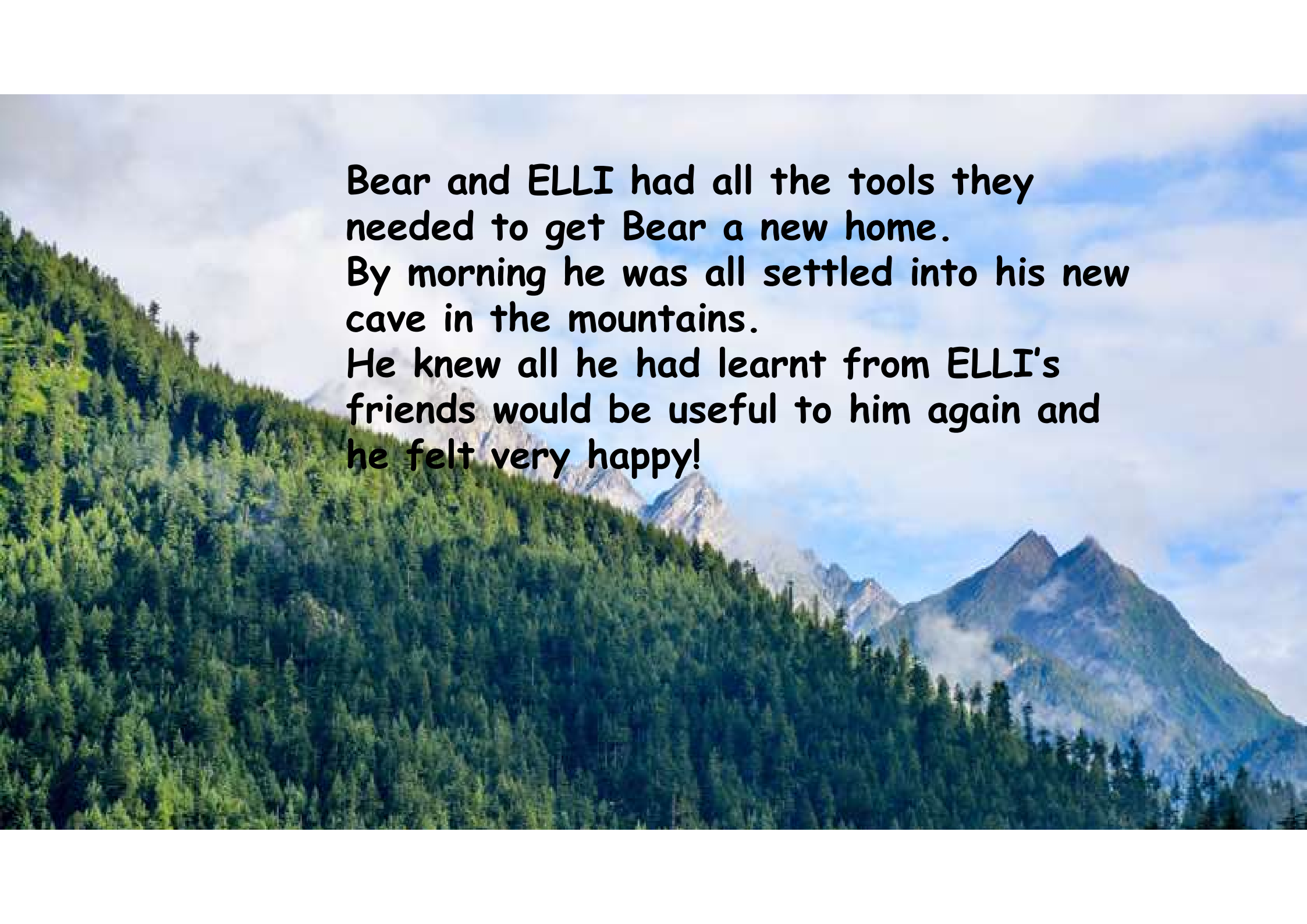
"Thank you," said Bear and ELLI.

The bees pulled back the catapult working as a team and soon Bear and ELLI were on the other side of the hole. The bees waved goodbye as they gathered into a swarm and flew away.

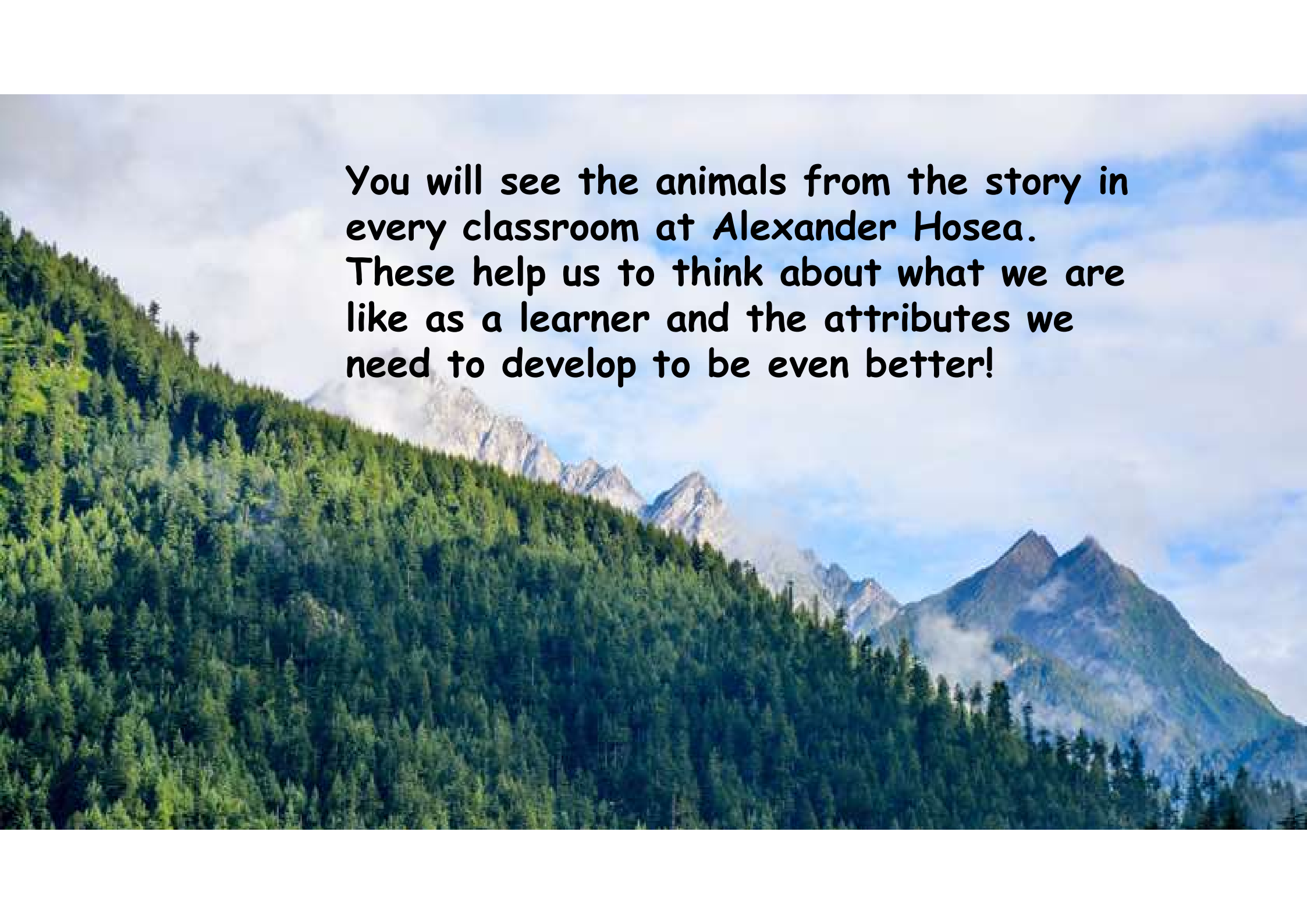


**Learning relationships**

Bees can work with others as part of a team, learning with and from others. They can also learn on their own.



Bear and ELLI had all the tools they needed to get Bear a new home. By morning he was all settled into his new cave in the mountains. He knew all he had learnt from ELLI's friends would be useful to him again and he felt very happy!

A scenic view of a mountain range. The foreground is dominated by a dense, lush green forest of evergreen trees. In the background, several jagged mountain peaks are visible, some partially shrouded in mist or low clouds. The sky is a pale blue with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

**You will see the animals from the story in every classroom at Alexander Hosea. These help us to think about what we are like as a learner and the attributes we need to develop to be even better!**

Why is ELLI worthwhile?

Confident and successful learners have a collection of psychological traits and skills that enable them to engage effectively with a variety of learning challenges. This is often referred to as 'Learning Power'. Learning power is something that can be developed at home, with friends, in school - in fact it can be developed all the time and everywhere. ELLI's seven learning dimensions provide an understanding of these important skills and traits, many of which are needed in order to become better, more effective learners. The animal metaphors help the children to understand and relate to ELLI and help to provide a shared language of learning, which is why we value it so much at Alexander Hosea.

How does ELLI improve our learning across the curriculum?

At Alexander Hosea we have a strong focus on helping the children to develop skills which will empower them to learn, to be in control and to be independent. Our aim is to look at each pupil more holistically than a narrow focus on just academic skills (which does not always enable the children to learn all of the skills needed to succeed in school and life).

As a result of our work on [Growth Mindset](#), we have also refer to the power of yet (The Yeti) to remind children that when we come across things we find tricky, we don't say we can't do it, we say we can't do it YET. [Growth Mindset](#) has a positive impact on our ability to learn and our willingness to tackle a challenge.



<https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/publications/developing-an-effective-lifelong-learning-inventory-the-elli-proj-2>

Follow this link to find out more about the research