

## Purple learning

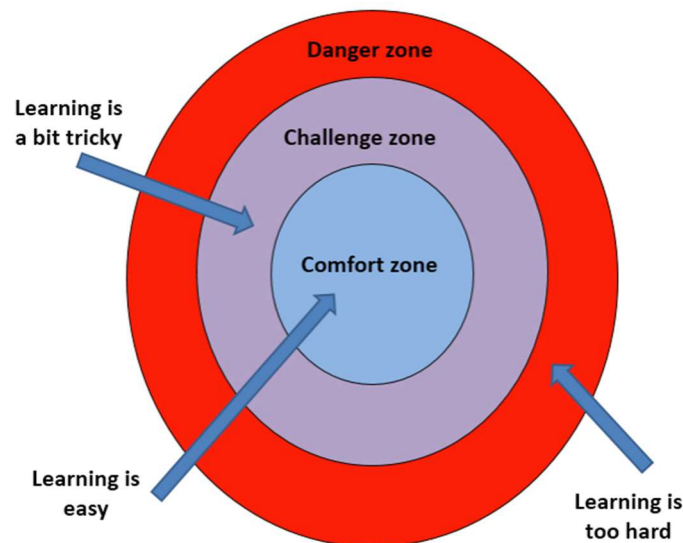
Research shows that one of the keys to children succeeding at school is for them to know themselves as learners. If a child can explain the different skills he or she is using, it enhances awareness of what helps them to learn, what their strengths and weaknesses are and what they need to do to improve. It also supports the development of resilience.

One of the strategies we use to help children talk about their learning, and the importance of challenge within this, is the use of 'purple learning'. In each class we talk about learning and the importance of challenge and use the target image (below) to help our discussions.

In Topaz class we introduce this idea of 'purple learner' when we feel the children are ready during the autumn term. In the purple zone, learners should feel confident to have a go but know that some of the learning will be difficult and might need them to persevere to be successful. It may also mean they make mistakes (create problems) but this is an important part of their learning journey (and natural if you are being challenged).

There will be some times when the children are tackling a task that the Teacher or TA will encourage the children to think whether it is tricky enough and whether they could make it more of a challenge. It might be to use more colours in a pattern, try using some sounds in their writing etc.

We talk about achievements throughout the day and the class children are encouraged to congratulate each other on their successes and use words of encouragement when someone has a problem to solve. Through doing this we create a learning community travelling through the school.



At home you can support by encouraging your child to keep trying when they have a problem. Eg. Doing up a coat. Teach them the skill then coach them to manage it themselves.

Encourage them to keep trying with a puzzle when they find it tricky.

Ask them:

'Tell me about a time when you have solved a problem today?'

They will start telling you all sorts of things about friendship problems, number problems, drawing problems. They might actually tell you more than if you just ask what they did.