



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Faculty of Education

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# Evaluating provision, progress and quality of learning in the Children's University 2012

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Fourth Report to the CU Trust  
January 2013





## Key findings – The ten ‘A’s

### 1. Attendance

Children who participate in CU activities have, as a consequence, better attendance records than children in the same school who do not participate. This has been a consistent finding from 2007 to the present.

### 2. Attainment

There is evidence that not only do CU-engaged children attain more highly than their non-CU counterparts but that there is a positive correlation between the length of time children are involved with CU activities and their performance in tests and exams.

### 3. Achievement

Achievement also encompasses what has been realised by the CU Trust itself, measured by its growth and outreach over five years.

### 4. Attitudes

Changes in attitudes for Children’s University attendees has been a consistent finding over the last five years.

### 5. Adventure

Surmounting obstacles, testing yourself against more ambitious challenges, has been shown to encourage determination and perseverance.

### 6. Awards

Children’s University awards have their own special currency, as parents and children attest to the excitement of learning in new ways and in new contexts. Passports play a vital role.

### 7. Agency

Agency may also be applied to the Children’s University itself, an agent of change in a systemic sense, in respect of changing local management, initiative and innovation and, in a deeper sense, affecting the way in which we come to understand and evaluate learning.

### 8. Aspiration

To be able to succeed in other contexts, to visit places beyond one’s own immediate neighbourhood, to see the inside of a university for the first time is demonstrated in the data as extending horizons of the possible.

### 9. Adaptability

The value of Children’s University is also measured by adaptability - of children and young people, of teachers and schools, and of the educational system itself.

### 10. Advocacy

Perhaps the most significant measure of advocacy is the spontaneous adoption of the Children’s University by people and organisations in other countries. That it has such international appeal and relevance is hugely significant.

### Evaluating provision, progress and quality of learning in the Children’s University - 2012

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