

Children's University™ Learning Destinations

What is a Learning Destination?

Learning Destinations are places and organisations to which children can 'travel' with their *Passport To Learning*. They provide high quality learning activities and experiences with a 'wow' factor and have passed the Children's University's own quality assurance process (*Planning for Learning*). A *Learning Destination* can range from a museum to a farm or from an airport to a university as long as the learning activity connects with Children's University learning which is linked to actual university course provision as exemplified on www.ucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch/

The status as a CU validated *Learning Destination* will in principle last for 3 years and is as such a licence agreement between the Children's University and the individual *Learning Destination*. As part of the local Children's University's monitoring and evaluation of learning activities additional local CU support may be available to individual *Learning Destinations*.

Learning Destinations display the CU's *Learning Destination* logo prominently in and outside their environment, clearly visible to children who may want to use their *Passport To Learning* there. *Learning Destinations* are also strongly encouraged to include the *Learning Destination* logo on literature, letter headed paper and to have a web link to the Children's University website.

Learning Destinations 'stamp' the child's *Passport To Learning* in correspondence with the time a child has been engaged in the validated learning activities within the *Learning Destination*. This thereby contributes to the child's record of achievements and CU certification.

Learning Destinations ensure attendance and evaluation records related to CU activities can be available to the local and national Children's University to assist in developments, evaluation and research.

How is the learning validated?

In the development of a national *Planning for Learning* process, a unique and innovative approach to the validation of learning opportunities in out-of-school-hours settings has been devised with the support of Professor John MacBeath of the University of Cambridge. The *Planning for Learning - A National Framework for Validating Learning* document sets out a rigorous process of self-evaluation and planning to ensure that the highest quality of learning is provided in all Children's University learning activities and in all activities accredited by the CU.

The approach to the *Planning for Learning* process is a positive one and will fit in with the ethos and focus at local Children's University level. Typically the validation process will take place between the *Learning Destination* designate and local CU representation as part of an exercise in collaboration to enhance the quality of children's learning.

Local Children's Universities may want to prioritise local provision to be validated to their local CU agenda and capacity and build their pool of *Learning Destinations* from there - the 'pebble-in-the-pond' approach. As far as their own learning provision is concerned, validation in existing local CUs can take place as and when learning activities occur; typically therefore all local CU provision should be validated within a 12 month period from becoming active.

Once the validation process has been completed and the outcomes agreed, the 'Children's University *Learning Destination* Summary' (from the *Planning for Learning* document) will be completed and published on the national Children's University website (www.childrensuniversity.co.uk).

Children and parents can then access a national bank of public *Learning Destinations* to visit after school, during school holidays or weekends. By being able to exercise choice as to where to use the *Passport To Learning* the child will be developing in to a more independent learner. Schools and after-school clubs may also choose to become restricted *Learning Destinations* purely for their predetermined CU audience.

Planning for Learning validators will have been accredited by the national Children's University following their participation in a national CU training programme. The training has been designed with the support of Professor John MacBeath and his team from the University of Cambridge.

Planning for Learning validators will be issued with a national Children's University certificate which entitles them to validate learning provision locally on behalf of the national CU and award *Learning Destination* status. The certificates are linked to the national membership status of the local Children's University.

A national register of *Planning for Learning* validators by local CU will be retained by the national Children's University for quality assurance purposes and to share resources and good practice.

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