

The Skills Builder Partnership

The Essential Skills

Our mission is to ensure that, one day, everyone will build the essential skills to succeed.



Our starting point is eight essential skills. Known by many different names, these eight skills map across to the four domains that come up time and again as the core, transferable skills for every aspect of our lives. In pairs they cover communication, creative problem-solving, self-management, and collaboration skills.

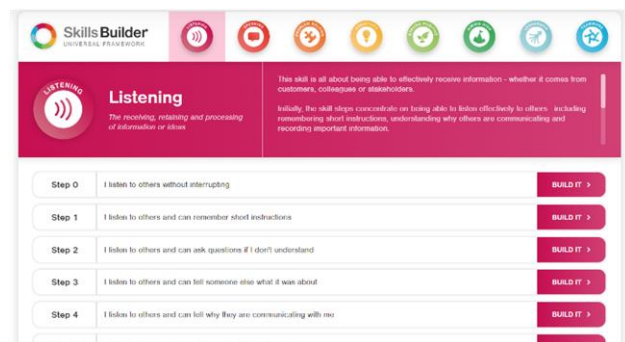
The Universal Framework

The Skills Builder Universal Framework shows how to build essential skills at every stage of life. Developed over four years, the Framework is being used by 500+ schools and colleges, 120+ employers and 100+ organisations, all building the essential skills of 200,000+ individuals. The framework, which is free to access for everyone, features:

- **Neutral language**, meaning it can work for **anyone, anywhere**.
- **Clear progression**, making it easier to **track change** and **focus efforts**.
- Each Step broken down into **Building Blocks**, to hone in on **specific elements** of that skill.

You can explore essential skill development further using our [Interactive Framework](#), which uses the Building Blocks and reflection questions to break each Step down.

The Interactive Framework then gives advice for Educators, Employers, Organisations, Individuals and Parents & Carers looking to develop this skill in a way that is meaningful in their context and setting.



The Skills Builder Principles

We have learned a lot over the years about how best to build essential skills. We know that to have a real impact, the skills must be developed with consistency and focus. These principles hold true whatever the setting.



1. Keep it simple

A consistent focus on the same skills helps ensure everyone's shared understanding and makes building these skills as tangible as possible. Using the same language all the time makes a big difference.



2. Start early, keep going

Mastering these essential skills isn't simple and takes time and sustained effort. The skills are not just about employability, but about thriving in all aspects of life.



3. Measure it

Take time to reflect on the skills of individuals – by observing or by self-assessment. This gives a balanced understanding of strengths and weaknesses, highlights progress and shows next steps.



4. Focus tightly

Building essential skills should build upon a student's previous learning and skill attainment. It should allow dedicated time just to explicitly build skills.



5. Keep practising

To accelerate progress in the essential skills, they should be used and reinforced as often as possible – including opportunities for reflection.



6. Bring it to life

Ensure students see the relevance of these skills by linking them with the real world and by bringing real-life problems and challenges to work on.

Find out more at skillsbuilder.org.