



## Thinking Focus: **Work Skills**

The capabilities and characteristics needed to be successful in the workplace.

*The future of work is changing. It's becoming a world where you are owning a lot about how you make your living.*  
Stacy Brown-Philpot



*Learning how to learn is life's most important skill.*  
Tony Buzan

### Curriculum Focus

Many of the children you teach today will be alive in the 22nd century. Who knows what kind of lives they will have led once they reach their 80s and 90s. It is our job as educators to prepare them as best we can for a largely unknowable future in which work, leisure and learning will transform before our very eyes. Our pupils need core knowledge, they need a world-class ability to learn, and they need a wide spectrum of adaptable skills in order to find meaningful work.

### Knowledge, Skills & Values

In this curriculum resource, pupils will learn about the kind of skills they'll need when they are older, and how these skills can be developed right now. Students will get a chance to reflect on the future of work and then contemplate their unique skills and how these will be best suited to an exciting but uncertain future. Use the starting points below and the 3 task levels opposite to design effective learning for them.

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## Starting Points

### Text

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/what-are-my-skills-0>

*Scroll down to the 5 skills and think of a time when you have had to use each one.*

### Data

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/05/5-charts-that-explain-the-future-of-education/>

*Look at the first chart. How many of these do you use in school?*

### Map

<https://www.coursera.org/gsi>

*Look at the map and identify five facts. Why are there differences between countries?*

## 1. Basic Questions/Tasks

List at least twenty skills that are needed in work.

Find/research/investigate and record creatively:

- One skill that you do not yet have and why.
- Ten skills that the WEF (World Economic Forum) says we should have.

What is a 'skill' and how is it different to a 'characteristic'?

Choose five skills. Make very simple icons/emojis to represent each one.

## 2. Deeper Questions/Tasks

Choose two jobs/careers that you would like to have and two that you would avoid. Identify three skills that each of the four jobs require.

Create a questionnaire for younger children to use which helps them to find their top skills.

Can all skills be learned?

## 3. Long-term Questions/Tasks

Create a personal action plan to develop the skills that you need in order to get the life that you want.

Develop one skill so that your learning is more effective. Prove to your teacher that your developed skill has made you a better learner.

Watch 30 minutes of TV or Internet shows and list all the skills being demonstrated.

*Every skill you acquire doubles your odds of success.*

Scott Adams



### Books

Mind in the Making by Ellen Galinsky

Small in the City by Sydney Smith

Challenge 10 Toolkit by Mike Fleetham

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## Starting Points

### Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTGgOZ46Af4>

*Watch this video. What skills do the characters use?*

### Act

<https://www.andnextcomesl.com/2017/03/list-of-social-skills-to-teach-kids.html>

*Look at the list of 50 skills. Choose 5 that you do well and 5 you want to improve.*

### Extend

*Use your research and learning to identify your top 3 skills - the things that you do best. List at least 3 situations where you use all of them together.*