

## THE 21ST-CENTURY SKILLS

*by:*

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Every period has its own set of standards for its people. It used to be that being able to survive was extremely valuable. Survival skills got us far, while theoretical knowledge was of little use. Because there was no practical way of storing and conveying theoretical knowledge other than in books or in your head at the time, memorized theoretical knowledge became the most coveted intellectual property.

However, in the twenty-first century and the years preceding it, we've seen a dramatic shift. As a result, there is a completely new set of standards for what it means to have 21st-century abilities.

The bar for adequate education is always being raised and lowered. The practice of rote memorization is no longer rewarded in the modern world. Instead, modern youth are pushed to develop transferable talents that may be used in a variety of contexts.

With the advent of cloud computing, microchips, and massive databases, we no longer need to physically keep information in our heads. In order to make good use of the vast amounts of data at our disposal in the 21st century, we need specific sets of abilities.

What's so crucial? You may have heard people claim, "With all the information we have today, no one would be misinformed or purposefully misguided." Misinformation is spreading faster than ever. Intelligence is not based on information. Processing and utilizing these productively produce it. That's the 21st-century skill we need yet are lacking.

Students today need to acquire these abilities to succeed in the 21st-century world. The first is communication. Effective communication requires the ability to listen attentively and to understand the speaker's perspective.

The second element is collaboration. It consists of cooperative activities, discussions, and viewing one another as a partner as opposed to a rival.

Critical thinking comes in third. It is the ability to separate important information from irrelevant information, to distinguish what is false from what is plausible, and to communicate with others more effectively, such as by using thought-provoking arguments and being able to embrace new information when it is presented adequately.

Creativity and imagination are the fourth elements. It is the process of transitioning between open and closed modes of thought. One of the best ways to do this is by teaching children how to code since coding entails being exposed to new challenges and activities, exploring the possible solutions, and then focusing one's attention on testing the correct solutions.

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The fifth is problem-solving, which needs a great deal of perseverance and resilience to ensure that one does not give up at the first hint of failure or unfamiliarity. It is a skill that guides us through life and that each and every one of us may benefit from.

The sixth type of thinking is analytical thinking, which focuses on understanding how things operate, why they work the way they do, and what we can do to improve them. It benefits both our professional and personal life by collecting important data, making reasonable decisions, and correctly understanding causes and consequences.

Integrity, action, and accountability are the seventh element. It teaches students to be courteous, not to insult one another, not to lie, to confess when they have made a mistake, and to apologize if necessary. It is encouraging them to perform these actions without

prompting in the future. Perhaps the most essential mission is ensuring that the children of today mature into individuals with integrity and accountability.

Literacy comes eighth. It involves media, information, and tech literacy. Media literacy helps us evaluate media news and separate fact from fiction. Information literacy means recognizing what seems credible, what sounds overblown, and why. Tech literacy means we can create and work with technology beyond just consuming it. Even as technology evolves, we can adapt, program, build, and intuitively use it.

Leadership comes ninth. Effective leadership takes more than just giving orders. It requires inspiring others to do their part, praising them, assigning them jobs that match their skills, and analyzing their strengths and weaknesses critically but respectfully.

Global awareness is the final. We can no longer make excuses in the 21st century since the world is so connected and open. Teach kids about the world outside their bubble, help them realize the multitude of individuals around us, and make sure they know how to accept these differences and avoid fearing the unknown.

Let our pupils learn 21st-century skills as they grow with people and the environment so they can be the best version of their predecessors.

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