

## The Critical 21st Century Skills Every Student Needs and Why

*With ever-changing technology and a rise in competition in today's world, there are a few critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skills every student needs in order to succeed.*



- **Problem solving.** Merely reading about such skills won't do you any good. You have got to know how to implement this skill practically. An important aspect today, to succeed in any career would be problem solving. The more you focus on devising techniques on how to provide solutions to real-world problems effectively, the better you will succeed. Also, those who master the art of problem solving tend to be more independent and good leaders as well. Such individuals can drive a workforce and establish their mark in this competitive market. Though these skills can't be learned in a jiffy, it is advised to practically have students face problems then let them come up with solutions. Give them a timeframe as to when they should be coming up with a solution. Don't discourage them though if they do not manage to come up with solutions on the very first try. It takes time to analyse such situations, but make sure you continue to try such situations once in a while.
- **Creativity** also plays an important role today. The ability to work and think creatively may be a skill one acquires from their parents or it can be learned later. The digital as well as non-digital environments help develop unique solutions to such skills. Because students are at a stage where they are developing their state of stimulation and neural ability, it is important to try creative activities using both digital and non-digital objects. Through creativity, students are able to engage more properly in learning and can also solve problems in creative or imaginative ways.
- **Analytic thinking** includes comparing, contrasting, analysing, evaluating, synthesizing and applying your mind without being given any instructions or without the help of supervision from someone. Many workplaces like individuals that have the ability to think analytically. Cognitive work and linear thinking requires such a skill and it is also a crucial skill to succeed beyond a classroom. Information Fluency is established through the help of analytical thinking and the ability to conceptualize, organize or even classify will help you a great deal in the workforce.

- The ability to **collaborate** in both virtual realms and physical spaces with real or virtual partners is very important today. This is a skill that helps students learn and develop their mental and emotional health.
- **Communication** is the key to success. This skill is the most important of all. It is very important for a student to develop these skills at a young age because only with the help of communication, can one actually convey a message. It doesn't matter if you communicate through text or speech; you have got to be good at both. Not only does communication let you get across your message clearly but it also gives you an added bonus of making your personality more colorful. Sometimes you may have the skills required to do a job, but if you cannot speak or write properly, your employer may have second thoughts about hiring you.

Sometimes, when applying for a job, you may have to take part in an interview over Skype. If you cannot clearly express why you want the job or why they should hire you, chances are they'll not get back to you at all. You create your first impression through communication. If you know you aren't that great at communicating, read books and watch movies or the news. Through such channels, you get to improve and develop your communication skills. You should avoid listening to commercial radio because the use of slang is quite common on such channels and may affect your professional communication in the process.

Communication is a skill that will benefit your personal life as well as professional life so get started with your communication skills now!

- **Ethics, action, and accountability** include everything from the ability to adapt to personal accountability and fiscal responsibility to tolerance and empathy to global awareness.

Accountability is an important skill everyone must possess. Once you take accountability for your own actions and mistakes, you grow as an individual. Even fiscal responsibilities when learned at a young age could benefit you in the future; if you manage to save a lot and go about with your money or finances responsibly then you have got a back up for a rainy day.

Global awareness again is quite an important aspect of ethics, actions and accountability because awareness can help you develop your cognitive ability. The more aware you are, the better you will be at doing certain tasks. Having sound knowledge of the internet and what goes on there will help you establish certain ground rules for the future.

## **Conclusions**

The truth is, the market place will change again in the coming years. Merely being online or Facebook or Instagram isn't going to help you. You will have to continue to explore online applications and practice

your communication skills in new environments, which are continually changing. Your commitment to creativity, problem solving, and analytical skills will make you successful students and valuable employees of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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