

Thank you for choosing to use The Big Question as a resource to assist your child to develop the foundation skills that underlie success over the life-span.

We have written the Career-Life Skills Development Series of resources to assist parents and educators to help children develop the foundation skills that the latest research suggests are important for life-long success.

Did you know that 55% of your life time earnings are driven by your ability to manage your career?

From a very young age, children make decisions that form the 'patterns of behaviour' that shape their skill development.

These behaviours, research shows, have a significant impact upon success (however defined) over a life-time.

Foundation skills include:

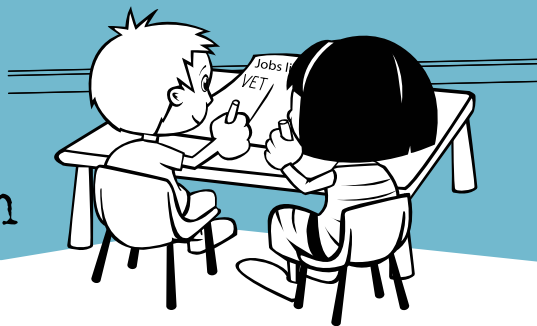
1. Self-concept building (recognise self-talk, build confidence, face personal fear)
2. Communication (intra and interpersonal communication)
3. Teamwork & Leadership (to work & interact with others effectively)
4. Problem solving (develop solutions using a range of strategies in different situations)
5. Initiative (adapting to change, develop ideas, harness opportunities, taking action)
6. Learning (habits of mind, attitudes, perceptions, strategies)
7. Planning and Organising (managing time, prioritizing, managing information)
8. Self Management (goal focus, persisting, doing what is important)

These skills are at the core of a student's ability to:

- persist when the answer is not readily apparent
- plan to get homework completed even though a favourite TV show is on
- deal appropriately with negative peer relationship experiences
- solve problems before they escalate
- succeed when working in groups
- deal effectively with new and unfamiliar situations
- communicate needs, ideas and suggestions

Thus the hugely important role of parent and caregiver is to support and nurture children to make bigger and better decisions based upon the foundation of well established self-belief.

This book and associated TBQ Magazine aims to support your role in assisting your child to develop healthy self-belief, a love for learning and an open mindedness to fully explore and develop their many natural gifts and talents.



Some further suggestions for using this educational resource include:

- Establish regular and consistent homework patterns – have a plan you put on the fridge and in front of your child’s study desk and stick to the plan. Starting early and getting your child into the homework routine will establish healthy learning patterns for later on.
- Get your child to think about the careers of family, relatives, friends, friends parents etc. to learn about who they could ask for information about a career interest.
- If your child has a skill that is less developed, talk to your teachers or other personnel about ways to help your child develop this skill. Try to document any meetings you have so you have a record of what was discussed and the action plan that was developed. Also – implement the action plan as soon as practical.
- Where your child has a career interest, take them to explore a workplace:
 - Visit the workplace where appropriate;
 - Talk to someone who works in the area;
 - Look up information on the internet;
 - Find out what skills and or education is required;
 - Always encourage your child to keep their options open – new information will always shape preferences.
- Use the TBQ Magazine as a resource to explore and learn about career options, different skills and use the activities to engage your child in learning about these in an interactive way
- **Remember:** Always encourage, praise and support any ideas or opinions expressed. All of us learn more by being made right than by being made wrong. If your child says something that is not quite right, rather than say “No – that isn’t right” you could try “Ok – that is one way to look at it. What is another way?” This acknowledges your child’s current thinking and encourages them to explore different perspectives.

We welcome your feedback and for further ideas on nurturing the career-life development of your child or to ask questions email: tbq@careersfasttrack.com.au