



Employability Skills.

Employability skills are the skills you need to enter, stay in, and progress in the world of work—whether you work on your own or as part of a team.

Students, teachers, parents, employers, labour and community leaders, and governments can use the Employability Skills profile as a framework for dialogue and action. Understanding and applying these skills will help you participate and progress in the world of work.

Apply Your Employability Skills at Work

Employability Skills are the critical skills you need in the workplace—whether you are self-employed or working for others. Employability Skills include communication, problem solving, positive attitudes and behaviours, adaptability, working with others, and science, technology, and mathematics skills.

Apply Your Employability Skills Elsewhere in Your Life

Employability Skills can be applied beyond the workplace in your daily and personal activities.

Develop Your Employability Skills

You can develop your Employability Skills at home, at school, at work, and in the community. Family, friends, teachers, neighbours, employers, and co-workers can all play a part in helping you build these skills.



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Fundamental Skills

These are the skills needed as a basis for further development. You will be better prepared to progress in the world of work when you can:



Manage Information

- locate, gather, and organize information using appropriate technology and information systems
- access, analyze, and apply knowledge and skills from various disciplines (e.g., the arts, languages, science, technology, mathematics, social sciences, and the humanities)

Think and Solve Problems

- assess situations and identify problems
- seek different points of view and evaluate them based on facts
- recognize the human, interpersonal, technical, scientific, and mathematical dimensions of a problem
- identify the root cause of a problem
- be creative and innovative in exploring possible solutions
- readily use science, technology, and mathematics as ways to think, gain, and share knowledge, solve problems, and make decisions
- evaluate solutions to make recommendations or decisions
- implement solutions
- check to see if a solution works, and act on opportunities for improvement



Communicate

- read and understand information presented in a variety of forms (e.g., words, graphs, charts, diagrams)
- write and speak so others pay attention and understand
- listen and ask questions to understand and appreciate the points of view of others
- share information using a range of information and communications technologies (e.g., voice, e-mail, computers)
- use relevant scientific, technological, and mathematical knowledge and skills to explain or clarify ideas



Use Numbers

- decide what needs to be measured or calculated
- observe and record data using appropriate methods, tools, and technology
- make estimates and verify calculations



Personal Management Skills

These are the personal skills, attitudes, and behaviours that drive one's potential for growth. You will be able to offer yourself greater possibilities for achievement when you can:

Demonstrate Positive Attitudes and Behaviours

- feel good about yourself and be confident
- deal with people, problems, and situations with honesty, integrity, and personal ethics
- recognize your own and other people's good efforts
- take care of your personal health
- show interest, initiative, and effort



Be Responsible

- set goals and priorities balancing work and personal life
- plan and manage time, money, and other resources to achieve goals
- assess, weigh, and manage risk
- be accountable for your actions and the actions of your group
- be socially responsible and contribute to your community

Be Adaptable

- work independently or as part of a team
- carry out multiple tasks or projects
- be innovative and resourceful: identify and suggest alternative ways to achieve goals and get the job done
- be open and respond constructively to change
- learn from your mistakes and accept feedback
- cope with uncertainty



Learn Continuously

- be willing to continuously learn and grow
- assess personal strengths and areas for development
- set your own learning goals
- identify and access learning sources and opportunities
- plan for and achieve your learning goals

Work Safely

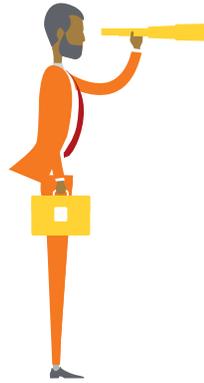
- be aware of personal and group health and safety practices and procedures, and act in accordance with them



Teamwork Skills

These are skills and attributes needed to contribute productively.

You will be better prepared to add value to the outcomes of a task, project, or team when you can:



Work With Others

- understand and work within the dynamics of a group
- ensure that a team's purpose and objectives are clear
- be flexible: respect, and be open to and supportive of, the thoughts, opinions, and contributions of others in a group
- recognize and respect people's diversity, individual differences, and perspectives
- accept and provide feedback in a constructive and considerate manner
- contribute to a team by sharing information and expertise
- lead or support when appropriate, motivating a group for high performance
- understand the role of conflict in a group to reach solutions
- manage and resolve conflict when appropriate

Participate in Projects and Tasks

- plan, design, or carry out a project or task from start to finish with well-defined objectives and outcomes
- develop a plan, seek feedback, test, revise, and implement
- work to agreed-upon quality standards and specifications
- select and use appropriate tools and technology for a task or project
- adapt to changing requirements and information
- continuously monitor the success of a project or task and identify ways to improve

The Employability Skills profile was developed by members of The Conference Board of Canada's Employability Skills Forum and the Business and Education Forum on Science, Technology, and Mathematics.

For more resources on education and skills go to:

www.conferenceboard.ca/topics/education/learning-tools.aspx

