

Top 8 Skills Students Need (& How to Develop Them)

Do the students you work with have the skills and confidence to act in ways that reveal rooted character? Do they have exactly what the world needs?

Pair these skill-building strategies with the [Leader in Me Curriculum](#) to grow more—and better—leadership across your campus.



Personal Effectiveness

1) RESPONSIBILITY

Taking accountability for actions.

- Equip students with tools for [emotion regulation](#) and [self-awareness](#).
- Cultivate **initiative** by entrusting students with [classroom leadership roles](#).



2) VISION

Imagining a meaningful future outcome and creating a plan to get there.

- Support students in **clarifying values** by crafting [personal](#) and [team](#) mission statements.
- Leverage [learning targets](#) and [Leadership Portfolios](#) to model and scaffold **planning ahead** and **goal setting**.

3) PRIORITIZATION

Ranking tasks in order of importance based on goals and values.

- Model **time management** with the [Daily Routine Planning Tool](#) and [Weekly Planning Template](#).
- Coach **discipline** with the [Transitions Toolkit](#) and [Big Rocks Tracker](#).
- Use direct lessons about [resilience](#) to help students develop **adaptability**.

4) HIGHER-ORDER THINKING

Evaluating information, generating creative ideas, solving complex problems, and leading one's learning.

- Promote **critical thinking** and **problem solving** by weaving the 7 Habits® into various [content-area lessons](#).
- Model and teach [metacognition](#).

Interpersonal Effectiveness

5) RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING

Using consistent interactions to build trust and balancing one's personal needs with the needs of others.

- Build **trust** and help students balance **courage with consideration** by establishing [Emotional Bank Account Systems](#).
- Use [Shout-Out Cards](#) to encourage an **abundance mindset**.

6) COMMUNICATION

Reaching mutual understanding through the clear exchange of information.

- Create daily opportunities to practice **listening** with [morning meetings](#).
- Explicitly teach "[I](#)" [Messages](#) and [academic discourse](#) to prompt **verbal expression**.
- Incorporate opportunities for students to reflect on and practice **non-verbal communication** with [daily greetings](#) and [hand signals](#).

7) EMPATHY

Understanding and respecting another person's thoughts and feelings with the intent to see their perspective.

- Cultivate humility with a supportive [social-emotional environment](#).
- Use [inclusive school culture](#) resources to promote **respect** and **understanding**.

8) COLLABORATION

Working together in a way that draws on everyone's unique strengths and ideas in order to find the best solution.

- Encourage **creative cooperation** and **valuing differences** by taking a [team approach to leadership roles](#) and celebrating with [Synergy Awards](#).
- Use [Leadership & Quality Tools](#) to capture group thinking, build consensus, and **resolve conflicts**.



Find these eight skills (and eight more!) in the [Student Leadership Portrait](#)—our aspiration for all students at [Leader in Me](#) schools.