

Enabling children & youth with 21st Century skills & competencies to be better prepared for life.



## Fly Higher



## SKILLS ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO OPERATE ON AUTOPILOT

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**Skill** is a term that encompasses the knowledge, competencies and abilities to perform tasks. These are primarily developed through life and work experiences but luckily these can also be developed through study and practice.

**21st Century Skills** are the set of abilities that enable individuals to work towards their goals during the Information Age. These are skills that help children keep up with the world changing at a lightning pace.

The objective of the initiatives and programs that we are driving at Fly Higher is to empower the children with resources that allow them to acquire these skills while involved with us, and in any other situations they might come across in their lives.

*"It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge and skills." - Wilbur Wright.*



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## SKILLS FOR ALL AND ALL FOR SKILLS

Skills enable individuals to operate on autopilot. Just like other things, skills need maintenance. Academic programs should not only help acquire skills but also establish them. Maintaining skills needs practice and awareness on a regular basis.”

It is said that ‘if one gets really good at doing one thing it’s easier to become good at something else’. This is because the skills that we develop and exercise trying to get better at something will help us with getting better at other things too.

Skills stay with us. But they need our attention. It requires us to be attentive and aware at the same time. Awareness probably is probably the superpower that elevates individuals to superhumans. We have heard stories about Heroes who are blinded about their potential and it just takes a voice to tell them what they are capable of.

The process of instilling skills does not end at mere information sharing, it takes practice and discussions post practice to share ideas. The aim is to engrain the ability in children to acquire and

maintain skills by themselves. Academic programs currently barely scrape the surface in this direction. For example, we are taught languages but there is never a discussion around effectively communicating our ideas.

Education should not just stop at children knowing. Communicating effectively is important. They should understand why it is important, they should get an avenue to exercise it and also be able to build a framework in their minds on how to get better.

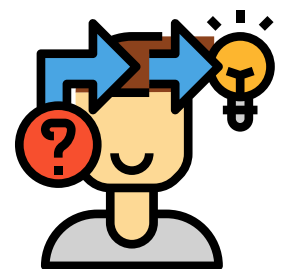
Sportspersons practice regularly, almost daily. Even if they are the best at what they do, it requires regular work for them to get better. The role of a coach is to bring awareness into the practice, let their athletes know where they stand and what they need to work on (a self aware athlete can be his/her own coach). The right combination creates magic, but for magic to manifest there needs to be regular work.

**Our programs are created with a holistic vision to instill Skills in the children and provide them all the aid required to exercise and maintain them. Our programs are anchored by the statement “Skills for All and All for Skills.” Our vision is to help children build their own runway for a Successful Flight.**





## FHI Skills - Critical Thinking



Every one of us is prone to cognitive biases. Yet the quality of our life depends precisely on the quality of our thoughts. That's why the development of general ability for independent thinking and judgement should always be placed foremost in a fast-changing world. Scientific education implies the implanting of a rational, experimental habit of mind. This is the essence of critical thinking. It requires one to use his/her ability to reason; to become an active learner rather than a passive recipient of information by asking questions to understand the links that exist between different topics. It is said that someone who is a critical thinker will identify, analyze, evaluate and solve problems systematically rather than by intuition or instinct. Also, critical thinking should not be confused with being argumentative or being critical of other people. Instead, it plays an important role in cooperative reasoning and constructive tasks. Not only does it improve the way we express our ideas but is also crucial for self-reflection.

Whilst this may seem daunting, being able to think critically has become a very important skill in the 21st century and thankfully, we can develop and train ourselves - and others - to be critical thinkers. Even India's new National Education Policy goes beyond the curriculum to focus on problem-solving and critical thinking. All said and done, the world needs critical thinkers.



## FHI Skills - Problem Solving

Problem-solving skills help one determine why an issue is happening and how to resolve that issue.

To resolve any issue, a lot of time and work is involved in understanding the underlying causes of the problem. Children need to learn to ask questions like “why?” and “what if?” and to think through all sides of an issue. They will need to be able to think critically — to observe, analyze, and come up with smart solutions to complex dilemmas. They will have to introspect and reflect upon various alternatives. Also, once a solution is implemented, they need to evaluate if and how quickly it's working. This way, they get to know whether the issue has been resolved or whether they'll have to change their response to the problem mid-stream. Through this, children learn to become proactive and flexible according to the circumstances. And even if the solution/plan they come up with doesn't work, we need to understand it's their thought process and willingness to solve problems that matter the most. Also, problem-solving and decision-making are not exact science. One learns and develops these faculties with experience over a while.

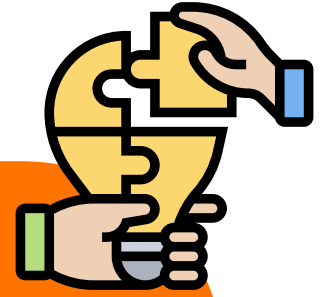


## FHI Skills - Digital Literacy

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has not only upended the way we socialize or interact with each other but has also altered the learning patterns of lakhs of students with online classes becoming the norm. Time spent online has increased dramatically in the past year and with businesses investing billions into technology, automation and digitization are advancing quicker than most of us expect. However, with this, instances of mismanagement of technology, the spread of misinformation, and mental health problems are increasing as well. Hence the need for awareness and education of digital literacy have increased dramatically.

Simply put, digital literacy means having the skills one needs to live, learn, and work in a society where communication and access to information are increasingly through digital technologies like internet platforms, social media, and mobile devices. For a start, it's important to inform children on how the digital platforms like social media work and have a discussion around pitfalls that they might have to look out for. Students need to develop the ability to assess content and sources, and reflexivity to understand the role of their own unconscious biases, social connections, and emotions play when processing information.

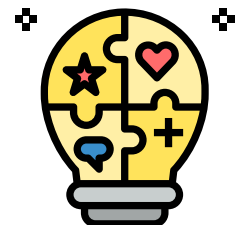
Thankfully, to cope up with evolving times, the new education policy of our country has rightly proposed to expose children to elements of the digital era - digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking. This will give them an edge to start building their careers before the age of 18, preparing them, and thereby, the entire nation for the challenges and unexpected outcomes of the future. All in all, no one should be left out of the digital age.



## FHI Skills - Collaboration

According to a recent study by neuroscientists, children need to be taught to display consideration and concern for others. This can happen only when they are involved in interactive and team-building activities. Through this, they develop social skills, learn from peers, and gain confidence. It can help them think more deeply and creatively about a subject and develop more empathy for others' perspectives. Also, it offers them the opportunity to celebrate and grieve with a group of people, embrace and enjoy the feeling of camaraderie, and ultimately become well-rounded adults.

Moreover, our world is facing many challenges today. From environmental conservation to world peace, many issues are affecting us that need immediate solutions. This requires people from across the world to collaborate to solve challenges that could change the world. Therefore, we need to extend this understanding to schools as well so children can discover the importance of collaboration and develop it as a life skill from a young age. This is crucial not only to coexist and live side by side in harmony but also to move forward as a civilization.



## FHI Skills - Career & Life Skills

In today's world children face numerous doubts, fears, and insecurities of their own while growing up. While they can grow and climb up the ladder of success, with increased responsibilities there is every chance, the life skills such as self-awareness, interpersonal communication, critical thinking needed to stay afloat might be missing.

Simply put, life skills are behaviors that enable individuals to adapt and deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life. These skills are not just necessary to help them become more successful but to make them better to handle any adversities and ensure their well-being. Year after year various studies have shown that when we teach life skills to children, graduation rates increase, incidences of violence, bullying, and substance abuse decrease and the employability of kids improve dramatically.

Sadly, things like skill development and career counseling are considered unimportant and are often ignored by guardians. It results in a poor success rate as children are left untrained on the most important part of the personality. Thus, we must motivate students to work on their personalities. It is high time that people start giving importance to skill development and career-building from a very young age.



## FHI Skills - Communication

As a child develops, we must nurture their communication skills so they are capable of expressing themselves, clearly and confidently, in all aspects and areas of their life. Being able to effectively communicate with others helps people resolve problems, establishes trust, encourages understanding, and helps build relationships.

First of all, we should keep in mind honing communication skills is a gradual and continuous process. For a start, children should be encouraged to ask for what they need from others, saying "please" and "thank you" when appropriate. Also, they should respectfully listen to others and understand that it's okay to disagree with the thoughts or opinions expressed by other people. Only when they respect the opinions and beliefs of others and listen with humility, they can learn new things. Further, they should be taught good manners and have the spirit of compassion and goodwill. For instance, they can be taught the importance of offering a heartfelt apology when they happen to do something wrong. Along with this, substantial emphasis shall be put on developing their reading and writing skills. They should be able to clearly articulate their thoughts and summarize their arguments.

## FHI Skills - Creativity & Innovation



Creative expression plays a key role in a child's emotional development. Creativity allows a child to break the convention, think about things as what they are, identify and understand patterns that are generally neglected. And when combined with innovation, children develop a superpower that enables them to solve problems in a novel manner.

A good classroom environment always has some elements of creativity which makes the lessons more interesting and interactive. The right mix of creativity along with curriculum helps students to be innovative and also encourages them to learn new things.

It is important to protect the creativity in children, encourage them to ask questions, assist them to find answers while not oppressing them with the biases we have in our minds. This creative exercise helps children to set out on their paths to becoming innovators. And innovators who can not only solve their personal problems but also public concerns.



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