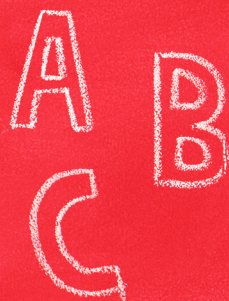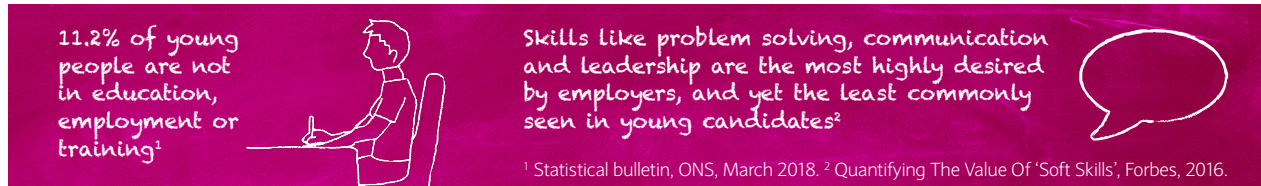# LifeSkills overview
for educators

LifeSkills

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Why are employability skills so important?

LifeSkills helps address the skills gap and youth unemployment challenge, so young people leave education with the skills that businesses need.

As technology increasingly shapes the world of work, more importance is being placed on skills like problem solving and resilience to succeed in this changing environment. Through LifeSkills we want to support educators to prepare 11-24 year olds to move forward in the 21st century workplace.

11.2% of young people are not in education, employment or training[1]

Skills like problem solving, communication and leadership are the most highly desired by employers, and yet the least commonly seen in young candidates[2]

[1] Statistical bulletin, ONS, March 2018. [2] Quantifying The Value Of 'Soft Skills', Forbes, 2016.

About LifeSkills

Commended by City and Guilds, LifeSkills provides educators with access to free online interactive resources, ready-made lessons and work experience opportunities. There are also tools, guides and films which young people can use independently or with their parents.
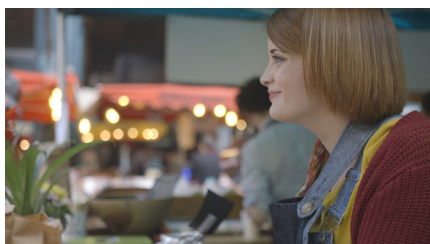
Educators can select from 60+ hours of free curriculum linked employability resources designed to fit into timetables, including a suite of lessons adapted for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Our 2018 Impact Report found that:
- 85% of young people felt better prepared to make future career decisions after being taught LifeSkills content[3]
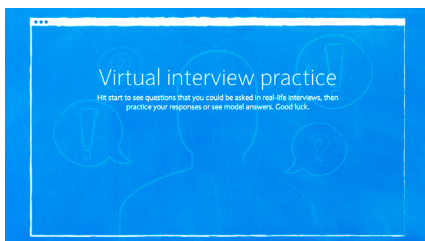- 96% of teachers rated LifeSkills resources as good or very good[3]

[3] Chrysalis Evaluation of LifeSkills 2017.

LifeSkills lesson plans, teaching guides, interactive tools and films cover everything from writing a CV to shining in an interview, identifying strengths, developing confidence and learning to manage money.
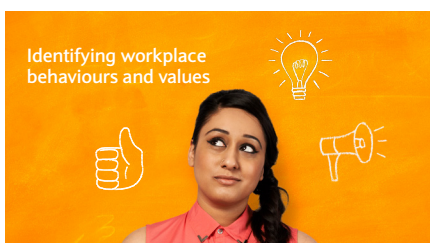
Show a film
Our communication challenge film demonstrates how Sophie, a barista in a busy market, handles a range of customers using a combination of verbal and non-verbal skills.

Try an interactive tool
Our Virtual interview practice tool enables young people to practice and perfect their interview technique by interacting with the interview questions they can expect to face in real-life.

Deliver a lesson
Help young people explore how they can improve their communication skills and understand appropriate workplace behaviour.

Navigating LifeSkills

Lesson plans can be accessed via the LifeSkills homepage, with an option to browse all lessons, filter by category, or view content tagged by a particular theme. Filtering by category offers educators a logical journey through the content, and can be further refined by specifying age range and suitability for students with SEND.

The LifeSkills Content Guide makes embedding employability across your curriculum easy, by mapping all our content to curriculums for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for students aged 11-19.

Work experience

1. Work experience placements: **barclayslifeskills.com/teachers/work-experience**

   Educators can reserve work experience placements for students aged 14-19 at different UK businesses. To ensure students maximise their placement, educators need to have delivered any combination of LifeSkills resources, e.g. lessons/volunteer-led lessons or homework tasks. Students can also work through content independently on the LifeSkills website, collecting points as they go. Once they earn 250+ points they can link back in with their teacher to co-ordinate their placement.

2. Virtual Work Experience: **barclayslifeskills.com/vwex**

   For educators facing time pressures in securing traditional placements, students can get a taste of working life without leaving the classroom with the Virtual Work Experience tool. They will take a virtual journey into the world of work to gain an understanding of how a business works, helping them with the real-world application of skills like communication, resilience and proactivity.

Educator support

On the LifeSkills website, educators will find a dedicated support area to help them use the programme and guides to stay ahead of developments in the fast-changing tech landscape.

Hear from peers

To join the conversation and discover hints and tips from fellow educators using the programme, follow @LifeSkills_Ed on Twitter or visit the LifeSkills blog.