

## Foundations

These are a set of ladders describing progress for learners not yet able to set their own learning targets. They are based on the original research work for the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and cover the period from birth to when learners first start to consciously self direct their learning (typically ages 5 to 7 but can be much later).

Level 9 of some of these ladders link in with the first levels of the SECRET skills, the others are concerned with basic literacy, numeracy, language and motor skills.

Foundations Ladder	Icon	Links to Early development of...
<a href="#">Try hard</a>		<a href="#">Self-Manager</a>
<a href="#">Be yourself</a>		<a href="#">Effective Participator</a>
<a href="#">Compare</a>		<a href="#">Creative Thinker</a>
<a href="#">Create</a>		<a href="#">Creative Thinkers</a>
<a href="#">Talk and listen</a>		<a href="#">Reflective Learner</a>
<a href="#">Be curious</a>		<a href="#">Enquiry</a>
<a href="#">Be caring</a>		<a href="#">Team Working</a>
<a href="#">Sounds</a>		Language Development
<a href="#">Read</a>		Literacy
<a href="#">Write</a>		Literacy

[Count](#)



Numeracy

[Work it out](#)



Numeracy

[Be active](#)



Motor Development



# Try Hard

1	You are interested in new things to play with.
2	You can get dressed and keep yourself clean with a little help.
3	You can enjoy doing something so much that you don't want to stop.
4	You can get dressed and keep clean all by yourself.
5	You can choose to do something and find what you need all by yourself.
6	You are always interested in learning new things.
7	You are happy to try out new things and tell your class about them.
8	You can try again when something doesn't work first time.
9	You are really proud because you finished something even though it took you lots of attempts and lots of time.



# Be Yourself

1

You can say goodbye to somebody special with help

2

You can tell people about what you do at home.

3

You can tell people how you are feeling.

4

You can tell people how things you have done before have made you feel.

5

You can tell people when you need something and you can see when someone else needs something.

6

You know that other people do some things differently to you.

7

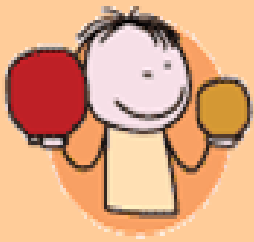
You think about other people before you decide to do something.

8

You know right from wrong and why you think that.

9

You have opinions and your own ideas. You show emotions sometimes when you hear stories.



# Compare

1

You enjoy putting shapes together to make things.

2

You can put things together that are like each other.

3

You can choose the right shape to fit in a picture or a model.

4

You can spot patterns in lots of different places and talk about them.

5

You can use words like on, over, under and in to tell people where things are.

6

You can use the names of some shapes and say which are bigger and smaller.

7

You can use words like 'heavier', 'lighter', 'greater' and 'smaller'.

8

You use what you know about shapes to help you make things and solve problems.

9

You can tell how many faces and corners a shape has without anyone helping you. You know the names of some of these shapes.



# Create

1

You like playing pretend games.

2

You can use your ideas to make something new.

3

You can show someone something you did by using a picture, model or music.

4

You can remember songs and sing them to other people.

5

You enjoy making models and pictures by using lots of things which look and feel different from each other.

6

You can say how music makes you feel and you can make up a dance that fits that music.

7

You have tried to share what you have imagined with other people by creating something new.

8

You enjoy role-play, songs and making music. You can use them to show how you are feeling.

9

You use role-play, art, dance or music to tell stories or show feelings. You like hearing other people's work too.



# Talk and Listen

1

You can listen to someone and answer.

2

You can start talking with someone.

3

You can explain what you are doing out loud.

4

You enjoy listening to and joining in with songs and stories.

5

You can imagine you are someone else and say things that they might say.

6

You use talking and listening to decide how to play with your friends.

7

You try out new words when you are trying to explain something.

8

You speak clearly and notice if people are listening.

9

You choose the right words so that the people listening to you understand.



# Be Curious

1

You look around you and notice things.

2

You enjoy doing new things and telling people about them.

3

You enjoy noticing when things are like each other or when things have changed.

4

You can describe things you hear, touch, taste, smell and see and say why you like them or don't like them.

5

You ask questions about why things happen and how things work. You enjoy trying to find out for yourself.

6

You can talk about how your family is different and the same as other families.

7

You can use technology to help you learn and can say how other people use it.

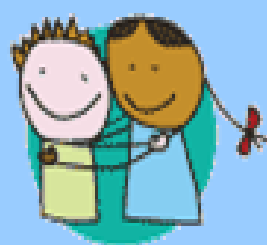
8

You can find something out by yourself. Sometimes you use models to help you explore.

9

You can choose what you would like to learn, record what you have found out and share it with other people.





# Be Caring

**1** You can play where other people are playing.

**2** You can play with other people.

**3** You can take turns and share things if a grown-up helps you.

**4** You can take turns and share without a grown-up helping you.

**5** You are friendly to everyone in your classroom.

**6** You remember to follow the rules for your classroom.

**7** You know everyone is different and need different things.

**8** You know which things other people are good at and what makes you special.

**9** You make other people happy by listening to their ideas.



# Sounds

1

You can join in with rhyming songs.

2

You can spot when things rhyme or start with the same sound.

3

You can say the sounds that some letters make.

4

You can say the names and sounds of most of the letters in the alphabet.

5

You can spot letter sounds in words.

6

You can hear a short word and split it up into its letter sounds.

7

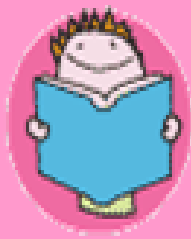
You can read short words using your letter sounds.

8

You can use your letter sounds to try and read longer words.

9

You can use the different ways you have learnt to try and read or write new words.



# Read

1

You like looking at books.

2

You know words tell us something.

3

You can spot some words that you know.

4

You can hold the book the right way up.

5

You can which bit of a story you like the best.

6

You can spot some words that go together.

7

You can tell someone a story you know and use some of the same words the story uses.

8

You can sort story books from fact books.

9

You enjoy reading some books all by yourself.



# Write

1

You can make marks or shapes.

2

You can write down some letters.

3

You can use letters in your drawings to show sounds.

4

You can write your name and some other words from memory.

5

You can write down most of the letters correctly using a pencil.

6

You can use your writing for lots of things like stories, lists and invitations.

7

You can use your letter sounds to help you write words even ones you have never written before.

8

You can write words together so they make sense and sometimes you use full stops and capital letters.

9

You can write short sentences and most of the time you get full stops and capital letters in the right place.



# Count

1

You can remember some names of numbers from songs.

2

You can count up to three things.

3

You can count up to six things.

4

You can count up to ten getting all the numbers in the right order.

5

You can spot numbers written down from 1 to 9.

6

You can count up to ten things.

7

You can sort the numbers 1 to 10 into the right order.

8

You can use counting to help you in games.

9

You can write the numbers up to 20 and then put them in the right order.



# Work it out

1

You can join in with songs about adding and taking away.

2

You can look at two bowls of apples and say which one has more in.

3

You can look at two plates of apples and say how many you need to add or take away to make them the same.

4

You can add your bowl of apples to your friend's bowl and guess how many you have all together.

5

You can give some of your apples to a friend and guess how many you have left.

6

You use the words 'add' and 'take away' when working things out with numbers.

7

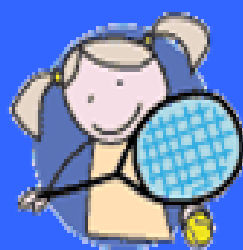
When I tell you any number between 1 and 10 you can tell what is one more and one less.

8

You use counting, adding and taking away to solve problems in your games.

9

You can use your number bonds to help you solve problems quickly.



# Be Active

1

You like moving your body to music.

2

You can move your body carefully in lots of ways. You don't often bump into things.

3

You can speed up, slow down, change direction and balance without bumping into things or falling over.

4

You can safely use climbing frames and share them with other people.

5

You can use lots of little movements with your fingers to move things carefully.

6

You can use sports equipment to play games.

7

You can safely use tools to make things out of modelling clay.

8

You can describe how your body feels after exercise and why you need to stay fit and healthy.

9

You can control your body so well you can repeat movements and balance. For example you could do dances in time with your friends.