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Life skills should be taught in school.

10mo ago  
admiralruby (1)

SUGGESTED CON

There is no proper method to "test" the learning and effectiveness of life skills in students.

Accept Reply

Pros Cons

Discussion Chat

@vegforlife We could add the tags 'School' and 'Children' to this debate?

Saphira (738) · 1y

good idea. Already done

You (8.8k) · 1y

@vegforlife Thanks!

Saphira (738) · 1y

@Saphira yw

You (8.8k) · 1y

@vegforlife Sorry for the delay - I wanted to do some reading about life skills curriculums that are used already to add to the debate background and ended up finding some really interesting reading material. Here is the expanded background we talked about. Let me know what you think!

Saphira (738) · 1y

'Life skills' is a term that refers to the skills needed to successfully navigate adult life. The skills that are useful will vary from person to person depending on factors such as circumstance and culture (cf [www.skillsyouneed.com](http://www.skillsyouneed.com)). The World Health Organization lists six key groupings of life skills: communication and interpersonal skills, decision making and problem solving, creative thinking and critical thinking, self-awareness and empathy, assertiveness and self-control, and resilience. This debate asks whether life skills should be taught in school. Many feel that current schooling lacks practical learning that would help students in their adult lives (cf [successfulstudent.org](http://successfulstudent.org) cf [www.thoughtco.com](http://www.thoughtco.com)). A Life Skills class, or curriculum, could cover topics such as citizenship, politics, voting, taxes etc., home-making, cooking, cleaning, budgeting, self care: diet, exercise, hygiene, and other ingredients that many adults feel are key to their success in work and other aspects of their later life (cf [www.manifestyourpotential.com](http://www.manifestyourpotential.com) cf [gowandflow.com](http://gowandflow.com)). In some special educational settings, e.g. schools for students with intellectual disabilities, and centres for at-risk young people, specific focus is placed on life skill development, with classes and exercises designed to ensure that the student will be able to use these skills outside the classroom (cf [lifeatcurriculum.com](http://lifeatcurriculum.com) cf [at-riskyouth.org](http://at-riskyouth.org)). Some argue that because the skills we need in life vary from person to person, it would be a waste for schools to spend valuable teaching time on skills that may or may not be of any value to the students. Some believe that life skills are not within the school's remit, that teaching children how to survive and to thrive in life is the job of their parents or guardians. This debate looks to find out how we can best prepare the next generations of adults to become happy, healthy and productive members of society.

Saphira (738) · 1y

@Saphira very cool. I would love to copy/paste that I would just add a last sentence. This discussion would be to debate whether the responsibility is on the parents/guardians/environment/individual to learn life skills or should schools provide it, even though the curriculum would be localized and ever-changing. Then we could possibly change the "life skills should be taught in school" to "Life skills should be taught in school, instead of parents/guardians". We could make a binary like that or leave it open-ended, as it is now. Thoughts?

You (8.8k) · 1y · edited 1y

Thanks @vegforlife! I vote to leave the thesis open ended (the current form) - I agree with the point about adding a final sentence to the background info - maybe "This discussion asks who should be responsible for teaching life skills. Is this something that schools should teach their students? If it is not the school's responsibility, is it the job of a parent/guardian to pass their skills to their child, or should the individual learn these skills for themselves as they go through life?"

Saphira (738) · 1y

@Saphira love it! I'll add it in. Awesome work there!

You (8.8k) · 1y

Thank you @vegforlife!

Saphira (738) · 1y

@Saphira you're welcome! I guess we could figure out the next step for this discussion or just call it done?

You (8.8k) · 1y · edited 1y

@vegforlife What do you mean? It looks like some new faces are showing up in the debate :D That might be the next step!

Saphira (738) · 1y

I notice a lot of debates have the title as a question - should we change this to "Should Life Skills be taught in school?" or leave it as is?

Saphira (738) · 1y

@Saphira funny, you're the second person to say that to me today lol. Yes, I'll change it to that.

You (8.8k) · 1y

@Saphira I mean if there's any more issues with the discussion that we should work on. It is really cool that more people are showing up. I bet it means that the edits worked, awesome!

You (8.8k) · 1y

@vegforlife I was scanning the debate topics and they all seemed to use questions, so the other person probably did the same thing! Will keep an eye out for anything else that could be worked on!

Saphira (738) · 1y

@Saphira good eye, work, and observation. Never noticed before. Awesome and me too :)

You (8.8k) · 1y