

Eight Cognitive Foundation Skills

| Strong Foundational Skills | Weak Foundational Skills | Corresponding Observable Behaviour |
|--|--|---|
| Focused perception | Sweeping perception | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick, fleeting glances at stimuli then looks away. |
| Systematic exploration, moving from left to right and from top to bottom | Impulsive exploration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes roam all over the page rather than systematically moving from left to right and from top to bottom |
| Correct orientation in space | Poor orientation in space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When matching shapes, points at shapes in a reverse orientation • Poor use of space on paper when drawing • Reverses letters and/or numbers |
| Can follow complete instructions with multiple components | Cannot take more than 2 pieces of information into account | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only responds to one part of instructions or stimulus • Perseverates on one item • Responds with negative affect to “busy pages” |
| Takes all available information into account when solving a problem | Incomplete data gathering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizes or attends to only parts of instructions or stimuli |
| Can recognize what needs to be done when presented with a problem | Unable to recognize problem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs explicit instructions and explanations • Appears to understand but behaviour has nothing to do with task • Does not know what to do even after instructions are given |
| Can recognize relevant information needed to solve a problem | Does not attend to relevant information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information • Looks at everything as if it is important • Reacts to unimportant stimuli |
| Can reflect and think before responding | Impulsivity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrupts • Starts before complete instructions are given • “Does first, thinks later” |