

Chapter One

Get thinking: get learning!

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It is advisable to start with this chapter as it covers fundamental skills which children can then apply to tasks within specific subject areas.

- The chapter begins with **Brain gain**, which requires children to work together to design a creative brain for a 'Holo Human'.
- In **Learner's recipe**, children create a recipe for a competition. However, this is a recipe for the best learner, rather than a meal. Children must consider the qualities and skills that result in effective learning.
- **Most wanted (1)** requires each child to create a poster about themselves – about their physical appearance and personal qualities. We often find it difficult to express the things that we do well but referring to

Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory helps us to think about these things. The children complete an MI questionnaire and transfer the results to their 'most wanted' poster.

- **Most wanted (2)** follows on from this: children create successful teams by looking at the skills and qualities that individuals in the class possess.

- In **Don't worry; be happy!** children explore different emotions by creating a new character in Blob Land. (A Blob can only experience one emotion.) This activity helps children to develop emotional intelligence – the skills to recognise, name and express their various feelings in appropriate and effective ways. The children in your class will have a range of emotional sensitivity: autistic children, for example, may need specific help. For some of these children this activity might help them begin to understand the mechanics of emotions, even if they are not able to experience them subjectively.

- The **Le Fevre Plus teaching board** activity offers guidance on how to monitor children's thinking and learning progress using Jonathan Le Fevre's method of learner mapping.

- **Apollo thinking** develops children's problem-solving skills. Referring to the Apollo space mission for inspiration, children are encouraged to solve problems using limited resources and time.