

What To Teach Your Kids Before They Leave Home

It would be great if by age 18 every young person could do the following:

DOMESTIC SKILLS:

1. Cook – don't just open and pour – a traditional breakfast, lunch, dinner.
2. Wash and iron clothes without ruining them, plus removing spots.
3. **Extra credit:** Replace a button – baste a fallen hem and polish your own shoes.

PHYSICAL SKILLS:

1. Throw and catch balls of all sizes without breaking your fingers.
2. Swim half a mile, tread water for half an hour and float for an hour.
3. **Extra credit:** Ride a bike with confidence.

HANDYMAN SKILLS:

1. Hang a picture straight without making extra holes in the wall.
2. Paint neatly, including cleaning up the mess.
3. **Extra credit:** Know which tools perform what functions and how to use them around the house.

OUTDOOR SKILLS:

1. Hike with friends all day without getting lost, bitten, or covered with a rash.
2. Bait a hook, catch a fish, reel it in, remove the hook, then clean and cook the fish.
3. **Extra credit:** Plan and manage a weekend camping trip with friends.

PRACTICAL SKILLS:

1. Type well with both hands in the normal manner.
2. Drive a car, including one with a manual transmission and maintain it properly.
3. **Extra credit:** Set up your own computer system without help from anyone.

ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS:

1. Maintain an address book and a personal appointment calendar.
2. Balance a checkbook – manually, even if you bank online.
3. **Extra credit:** Create a filing system for your important papers. .

SOCIAL SKILLS:

1. Carry on a conversation for 15 minutes with a person you don't know.
2. Speak before a small group of friends for a few minutes.
3. **Extra credit:** Learn enough dancing so you can have fun at parties.

ARTISTIC SKILLS:

1. Have enough confidence to sing aloud, even when everyone else can hear you.
2. Know how to play a musical instrument well enough to enjoy playing in a group.
3. **Extra credit:** Learn how to take a decent photograph.

HUMAN SKILLS:

1. Help a person in need without exposing either one of you to danger
2. Baby sit for children ranging in age from 6 months to 6 years.
3. **Extra credit:** Care for a dog, cat or other animal including when it's sick.

ORIENTATION SKILLS:

1. Know which direction is north, south, east and west without a compass
2. Read a map, including road maps.
3. **Extra credit:** Get around town on a bus, even if you usually walk or drive whenever you're outside.

RECREATION SKILLS:

1. Play a team sport instead of just watching.
2. Maintain a fitness regimen
3. **Extra credit:** Learn a game like bridge or chess you can play with friends for life.

SURVIVAL SKILLS:

1. Know basic first aid and maintain a complete first aid kit.
2. Know when to defend yourself, then know how to be effective.
3. **Extra credit:** Know CPR, the life you save may be your father's or mother's