

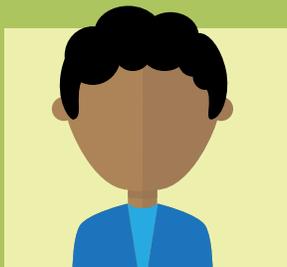
HABITS OF MIND AS LEARNING OUTCOMES

Habits of mind have been identified in successful people in all walks of life: lawyers, mechanics, teachers, entrepreneurs, artists, mathematicians, and so on. Our work over the past 25 years suggests that when students acquire these habits, they become successful learners ready to face the challenges of the 21st century and beyond. If we consider this the outcome we look for as our students leave school, then we must intentionally scaffold the development of these behaviors and skills from grades K-12. The habits of mind become one of the purposes of education. For example, when the staff in Berlin, Connecticut, Public Schools worked with the school community to draft their learner outcomes they also associated the habits of mind with each outcome:



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

share information, ideas, points of view, and feelings appropriate for audience and purpose in a clear, precise, and thoughtful manner (*thinking and communicating with clarity and precision; thinking flexibly*).



MINDFUL AND RESPONSIVE COLLABORATORS

contribute to shared goals by listening to others' perspectives to inform, expand, or shift your own ideas and input (*listening with understanding and empathy; thinking interdependently*).



RESILIENT AND DISCERNING PROBLEM SOLVERS

investigate a question, explanation, or challenge and develop a plan of action by evaluating the credibility of sources and rework ideas (the plan) based on findings (outcomes) (*questioning and problem posing; thinking about your thinking*).



KIND, COMPASSIONATE CITIZENS

seek to be a positive influence—they listen, understand, and act with both empathy and respect, knowing that what they do affects others (*listening with understanding and empathy; applying past knowledge to new situations*).



INNOVATIVE, IMAGINATIVE DESIGNERS

test ideas, reach for solutions, purposefully play with techniques and tools to identify the impact on quality of their creation and continue to refine their work (*creating, imagining, and innovating; striving for accuracy*).

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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This has been a sampling of the content from the full Quick Reference Guide (QRG), *Cultivating Habits of Mind* by Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick.

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