

The Q Skills resources are available to download from [www.nicurriculum.org.uk](http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk)



# The Prerequisite Skills (Q Skills) Information for Parents

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It is an important part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum that all children have opportunities to develop these skills:

- **Communication (Talking and Listening, Reading, and Writing);**
- **Using Mathematics;** and
- **Using ICT.**

From September 2012, a framework of **Levels of Progression** – from Level 1 to Level 7 – is in place to help teachers assess their pupils' progress in Communication and Using Mathematics. From September 2013, teachers will also use Levels of Progression for Using ICT.

### What Are the Prerequisite Skills?

The **Prerequisite Skills**, or **Q Skills**, are a broad, inclusive framework that exists to support those pupils who still are building towards Level 1 of the Levels of Progression. They lead into the mainstream levels and refer to the same requirements for Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

Although it is not a requirement to refer to the Q Skills, schools can use them to assess the progress of pupils aged 3–19 with special educational needs.

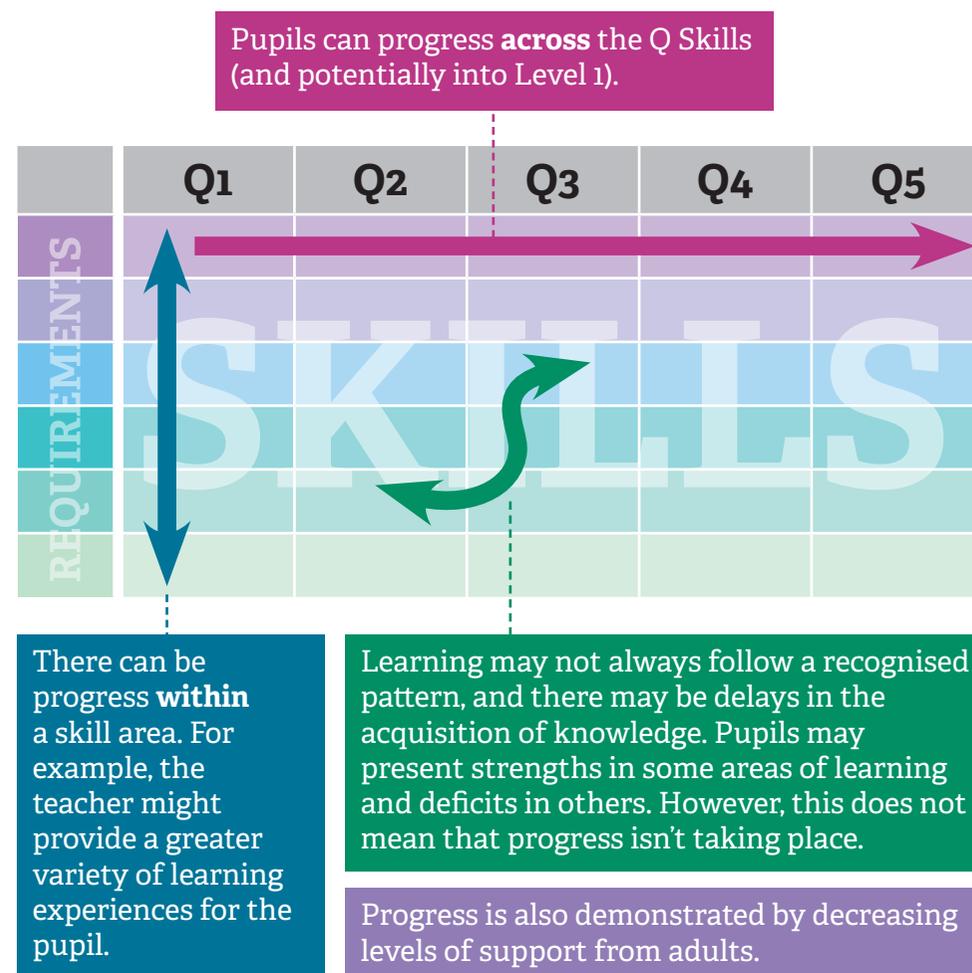
### What Do the Q Skills Look Like?

The Q Skills are grids broken down into five skill areas:

<b>Q1 Experience/Encounter</b>	A pupil is present during an activity but shows minimal response.
<b>Q2 Respond</b>	The pupil shows signs of enjoyment, surprise, frustration or dissatisfaction.
<b>Q3 Engage</b>	The pupil shows interest and enthusiasm, communicated through body language, focused looking, or listening, and redirects attention when the activity ends.
<b>Q4 Actively Participate</b>	The pupil shares, takes turns and anticipates familiar events.
<b>Q5 Consolidate</b>	The pupil combines learning and generalises skills, knowledge, concepts and understanding, relating to curricular experiences.

In each skill area, there is a list of statements about what pupils may do in specific types of learning activity.

### What Types of Progress Do the Q Skills Help to Show?



### How Can the Q Skills Help Your Child?

The Q Skills have been developed to support teachers in assessing pupils' individual needs, taking into account, for example, their age, cognitive ability and learning difficulties.

They help teachers to identify what should be the next steps in your child's learning. This way, they can plan the types of meaningful learning activities that best suit your child's needs.