



How to Make an Integrated Skills Lesson Plan

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A handy guide to making an integrated skills lesson plan, including what integrated skills are and why they're important. Includes ready-made activities.

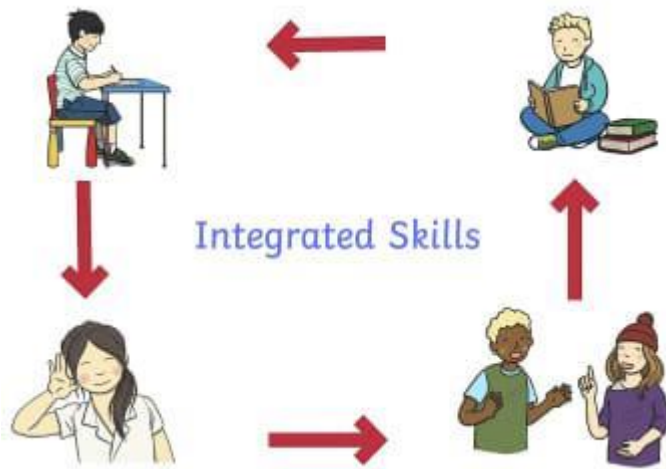
What are Integrated Skills?

Integrated skills are the intentional combination of core language skills like speaking, writing, listening and reading, used within lessons on an exciting new topic.

The goal of teaching with integrated skills is to strengthen children's overall social and educational communication skills through continued practice, while learning about a new theme that will interest and excite them.

If you are already familiar with [role playing tasks](#) and [reading response activities](#), you'll already understand the ways that reading, writing, speaking and listening interact and reinforce each other within the classroom. An integrated skills lesson plan is made to emphasize this process by selecting activities based around a theme that all target different areas of communication.

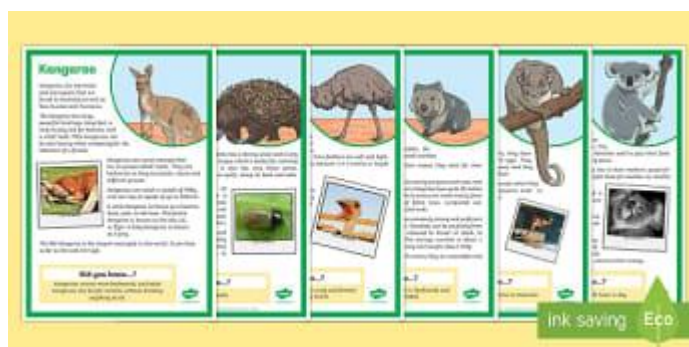
Here, we'll walk you through making an integrated skills lesson plan, before giving some great examples of ready-made units of work that can do the same for you.



Choosing a Topic

Picking a topic that will interest your class is a great place to start. An ideal topic for an integrated skills lesson plan will be broad enough for children to be able to do their own research and tailor it to their own interests.

In this example, we'll choose Australian animals and wildlife. This is because there are so many ways that you could approach this topic. It's suitable for different ages and ability levels, and would work well with an inquiry-based approach to English learning. This would have the children take the lead by finding out interesting facts about the animals in question. You could start this topic with a handy visual aid, like this [Australian Animals Poster Pack](#).





The First Activity

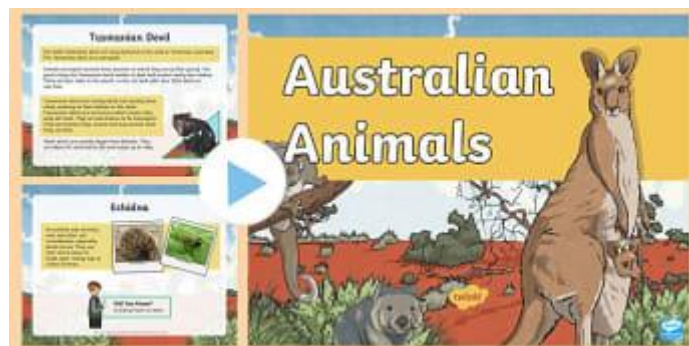
The first part of an integrated skills lesson plan should combine two of those core language skills while teaching children something new about the theme that you are covering.

To help with this, it's useful to think about the idea of 'inputs' and 'outputs':

1. How are your class taking this information in (an input)? Is it via listening or reading?
2. How will they relay this information to others later (an output)? Is it through writing or speaking?

Ideally, combining these two 'input' elements in your first activity will give your children more support in strengthening their communication skills, especially if the topic you are covering includes new vocabulary or an element of language your class might not have encountered before.

For our Australian animals example, we could start the lesson with a [group PowerPoint discussion](#), with a mix of reading and listening involved. Afterward, prompt your discussion with fun questions like 'which animal are you most interested in?', and 'what did we learn about kangaroos today?'.





Responding to this activity

The next part of our integrated skills lesson plan has children communicate what they have just learned in multiple ways. Rather than just doing one worksheet, you could encourage your children to write out a report, and then read what they have learned to a partner. Or, you could have your class act out the fun facts that they have learned in a role play session.

The idea here is to consolidate communication skills by combining more than one element together. By the end of the lesson, all four core elements of communication will have reinforced each other.

For our Australian animals example, you could have your class choose their favourite animal that they have learned about, and write a report on this animal using this fun [template](#). When they are finished, they could swap their report with a partner, who would then read this information out loud to the class.

This would allow the children to self-reflect on their own work while learning how their communication skills benefit those around them. This shared approach to learning is a fun and exciting chance to use communication skills in a cross-curricular way.

An integrated skills approach to teaching is useful for both teachers and home educators teaching mainstream and ESL primary children. In the above examples, F-2 resources are used, but this approach is easily adaptable for a range of topics and learners.



Assessing your integrated skills lesson plans

Here are a few handy tools that you could use for planning and assessment related to this topic:

[F-2 Report Writing Resources](#)

[EYLF Planning and Assessment Resources](#)

[Communication Language and Literacy Resources](#)

Ready-made resources for integrated skills lesson plans

If you're interested in this cross-curricular approach to English lessons, you might be interested in Twinkl's Integrated Unit Lessons. This style of teaching is all about combining core educational skills together while focusing on a set unit of work. It aims to teach children how to be independent while learning about a new subject. Here's how to get started with Integrated Units:

- For an overview of this subject, check out the [Integrated Units User Guide](#).
- You could also try this [Free Integrated Units Taster Pack for F-2](#), which is full of the kinds of activities and plans that you could use to support your children through this holistic and inquiry-based approach.
- This [Integrated Unit Plan Template for Year 2](#) acts as a handy guide for the topic 'Where in the World is...?', which combines Geography, English and other core learning aims together.

Finally, you might want to read through our recent blog on [Integrated Units](#) to find out more.

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