

Academic Foundation: “Building Blocks”

This exercise is used to demonstrate how, by missing certain fundamental concepts in earlier grades/school years, the student’s academic progress can be negatively impacted in subsequent years, leading to a drop in grades and/or confidence.

At the appropriate point in the consultation (usually during stage 2: Assess), you should use the Academic Foundation exercise to demonstrate this *Building Block* concept (see [Academic Foundation tool](#)). Explain to the client that teachers assume students know all of the concepts taught in previous years, and therefore they move on to teach new concepts that build upon those non-existent “blocks”. Each year, as the work gets harder, there is usually a cumulative negative effect. The result is that the student will often feel frustration and lose confidence, often causing grades to suffer.

Run through the exercise with the client to visually demonstrate how we “*fill in these missing academic blocks from previous years, to lay a solid foundation for coming years’ learning*”. Explain that using a tutor for additional one-to-one support with their building blocks, will gradually get the student back on track with any knowledge gaps from previous years, whilst keeping pace with his existing school work. Through this process, we are able to increase the student’s confidence, develop his/her study skills *and* improve grades for the current academic year and beyond.

*Refer to your franchise training for details on how to complete the Academic Foundation tool.

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
100%												
90%												
80%												
70%												
60%												
50%												
40%												
30%												
20%												
10%												

If you are feeling adventurous, you could even get creative and use props such as Jenga blocks, to illustrate the concept in a fun and interactive way! It’s a great way to get the family engaged and help build rapport! Have the student(s) pull out the blocks and see what happens! (Be careful! 😊)