

THE FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING STARTS WITH A PHYSICAL BASE

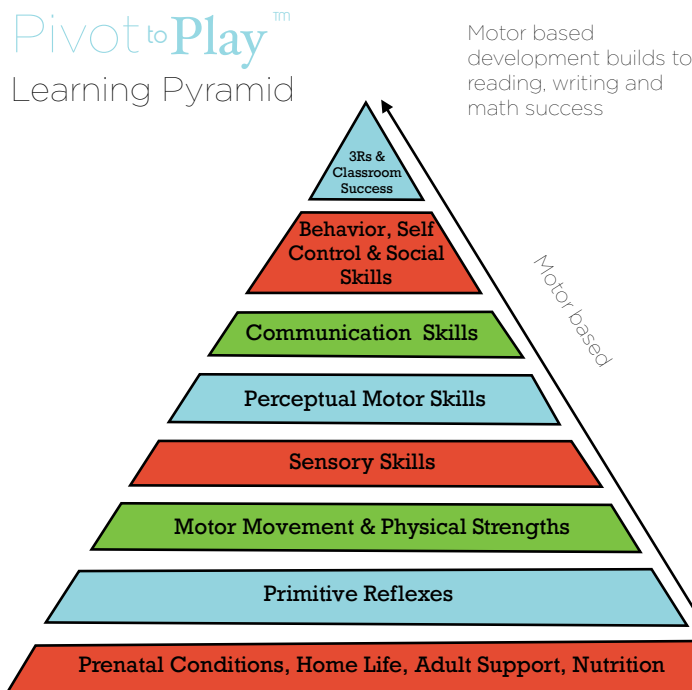
All pyramids are diagrams with a wide base representing the foundation upon which all the rest is built, step by step. Typically securing skills or needs in one layer must be achieved before advancing to the skills or needs in the next layer.

If any piece of the pyramid is unstable, the subsequent layers will be shaky also.

The Pivot to Play™ Learning Pyramid acts in the same manner. The bottom layer contains the most basic of all human needs. As the pyramid builds, so does the complexity of the strengths and skills.

But as you will see, the layers begin with more physical needs and ultimately lead to social, emotional, behavioral and cognitive development.

In the Pivot to Play™ Learning Pyramid, each layer is dependent on physicality. From the basic human needs on the bottom layer to the ultimate mastery of the academic skills, physical movement, motor patterns, strengths and specific skills are a necessity for securing each layer.



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Primitive Reflexes: These are reflexes we develop in utero and shed, or integrate, after birth. In most cases, they naturally disappear, but in some cases these reflexes are retained causing challenges up the pyramid. There are 5 major primitive reflexes, and many minor ones, and they are primarily motor based. Frequently, retention of these reflexes results from missed motor movement or weak motor movements. Simply put, when children don't move enough in infancy, the body and brain don't move along the developmental path correctly, and these primitive reflexes remain. When they are retained, they can hinder a child cognitively, behaviorally, and physically.

Motor Movement & Physical Strengths: In this layer, children gain the basic motor movements and strengths needed to participate in big body play.

Sensory Skills: These skills help our brains and bodies process information coming in through our senses.

Perceptual Motor Skills: The Perceptual Motor Skills help us understand our body's relationship to the world around us. They help us know where we are in space, how much space we take up and what direction we are moving. They also help us recognize rhythm, patterning and how to develop a sequence.

Communication Skills: These skills help us communicate with the world around us, whether it is through oral language development, phonemic awareness and speech, body language or focus and attention.

Behavior, Self Control & Social Skills: We need these three skills to follow directions, pay attention and make friends. These skills are essential for healthy development, safety, classroom management, and engagement by the student. Without strong foundational strengths and skills to support these higher level skills, school is no fun and much more challenging for the student.

3Rs & Classroom Success: The prize: reading, writing and math. These are the keys to success in elementary school and beyond. Without these primary basics, algebra, Chaucer and chemistry are not available. Without the foundation built from the play-based and movement-based strengths and skills in the lower pyramid layers, the 3 R's are harder to achieve.