

Engagement Steps is our framework for pupils not yet engaged in subject specific learning. The framework allows schools to profile and show progress for pupils with complex needs.





Connecting Steps



'B Squared has really made a difference in our school - it has been a great system for tracking the progress of our SEND pupils '

Carolyn Sykes, Assistant Head Teacher, Ferndale Primary School

Connecting Steps is widely recommended by advisors and local authorities and receives great feedback from inspectors.

'B Squared is an excellent resource for our school. It enables us to track the small steps of progress our learners make.'

Jamie Wright, Deputy Headteacher, Acorn School

Connecting Steps is the robust assessment package that is trusted in over 3000 schools worldwide. The assessment software has been designed to make assessment and tracking progress easier. The cloud-based software is designed to save teachers time by providing teachers with feedback that can then be used in their planning, report-writing and for other documents. Connecting Steps also supports meaningful communication with parents by giving clear information about progress and attainment.

To find out how Connecting Steps can make a difference in your school go to the website below to arrange a free online meeting. We can show you how Connecting Steps works, what frameworks are right for you and the benefits to your school.

www.connectingsteps.com/meetings

Our Assessment Software

Levels of Achievement

Within Connecting Steps are different levels of achievements. Teachers can record more than just achieved or not achieved. Each school can choose how many of these they wish to use and turn off the ones they don't want. This will depend on the type of school, type of pupils and the levels of attainment the pupils are working at.



Non-linear Progress

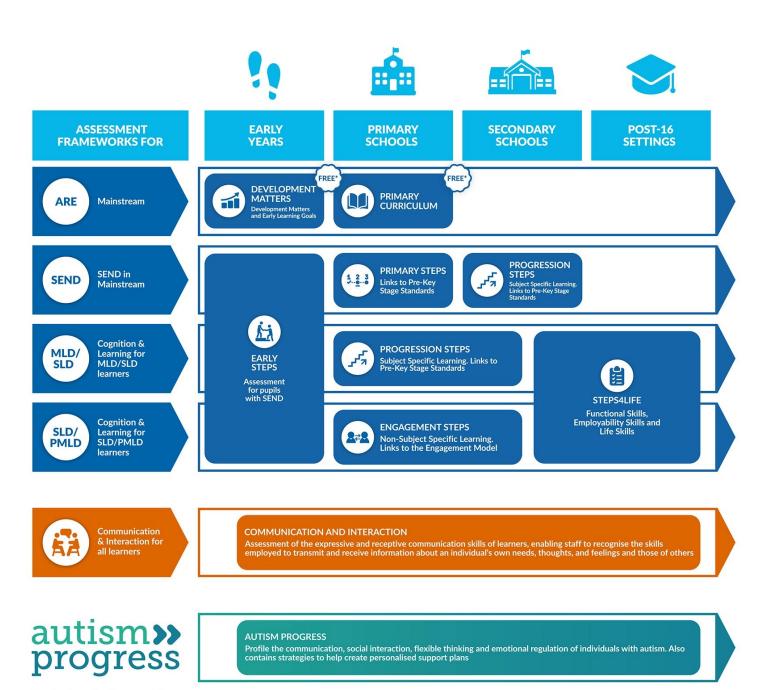
Schools need to assess a wider range of development, they need to show progress in a non-linear way and they need more flexibility to suit the development and individual progress for pupils with SEND. Connecting Steps features a number of reports for showing non-linear progress so schools are not left being unable to report the progress pupils with SEND make.

Simple Reporting

Teachers can instantly produce a range of reports designed to be shared with parents or professionals. The information is displayed clearly and simply to help increase parental engagement. The Connecting Steps Analysis Module allows leaders to build graphs for different cohorts in a few clicks. Tailored for each curriculum, the graphs are designed to present information clearly and concisely.

Frameworks

We have developed a range of frameworks to suit a wide range of abilities and ages. The image below gives you an overview of all our different frameworks and help you to identify which frameworks will apply to your setting.



*Requires Connecting Steps subscription

B Squared Framework Comparison Chart

STATU	JTORY F	RAMEWORKS		В	SQUARED A	SSESSMENT F	RAMEWOR	KS	
	els and evels	Pre-Key Stage Standards	Early Steps (EYFS 2021)	Engagement Steps	Progression Steps	Primary Steps	Steps4Life	Autism Progress	Broad Areas of Need
NO	C 7				Progression Step 10	1			Level 16 (13–15 yrs)
					1105.000.010.000.000				2010. 20 (20 20).0)
NO	C 6						Level 2	Level 17	
					Progression Step 9	Greater Depth & Breadth			Level 15 (11–13 yrs)
NO	C 5							Level 16	
NO	C 4				Progression Step 8	Year 6	Level 1	Level 15	Level 14 (9–11 yrs)
NO	C 3					Year 5			
					Progression Step 7	Year 4	Entry 3	Level 14	Level 13 (7–9 yrs)
NC 2	NC 2a					Year 3			
	NC 2b	Standard 6			Progression Step 6	Year 2	Entry 2	Level 13	Level 12 (6–7 yrs)
NC 1	NC 1a	Standard 5	Exc. ELG		Progression Step 5				
	NC 1b	Standard 4	ELG		Progression Step 4		Entry 1	Level 12	Level 11 (5–6 yrs)
P	28	Standard 3	Children in Reception		Progression Step 3	Primary Step 3	Step 7	Level 11	Level 10 (4–5 yrs)
P	P7	Standard 2	3 & 4 year olds		Progression Step 2	Primary Step 2		Level 10	Level 9 (3–4 yrs)
P	P6		2½−3 years	Engagement Step 6			Step 6	Level 9	Level 8 (2½–3 yrs)
P	P5	Standard 1	2-2½ years		Progression Step 1	Primary Step 1		Level 8	Level 7 (2-2½ yrs)
	24		18–24 months 12–18 months	Engagement Step 5			Step 5	Level 7	Level 5 (12–18m)
P3	B(ii) B(i) 2(ii)		9–12 months 6–9 months	Engagement Step 4			Step 4	Level 6 Level 5 Level 4	Level 4 (9–12m) Level 3 (6–9m)
P1	2(i) L(ii) L(i)		3–6 months 0–3 months	Engagement Step 3 Engagement Step 2 Engagement Step 1			Step 3 Step 2 Step 1	Level 3 Level 2 Level 1	Level 2 (3–6m) Level 1 (0–3 months)

Early Steps

Our EYFS assessment covers the range from birth to the Exceeded Early Learning Goals (ELG) across all seven areas based on the Development Matters 2020 and Early Years Foundation Stage Framework 2021.

Primary Steps

Our Primary assessment breakdown structure is based on the 2014 National Curriculum. If you are looking at using B Squared assessment with both mainstream and SEN pupils in a Primary setting then the Primary Steps works well for you. It includes the End of Year Outcomes and the first 3 levels of our Progression Steps for pupils working below Year 1.

Core Subjects

English, Maths and Science

Plus Subjects

Citizenship, Computing, E-Safety, PE and PSHE

Foundation Subjects

Art & Design, DT, Geography, History, Languages, Music and Religious Education

Progression Steps

Progression Steps is our new formative assessment framework for pupils who are engaging with subject-specific learning. It will over time comprise books which reflect the four broad areas of need. This framework covers the ability range identified by the new pre-key stage standards.

Core Subjects (available in paper)

English, Maths and Science

Plus Subjects

Citizenship, Computing, E-Safety, PE and PSHE

Foundation Subjects

Art & Design, DT, Geography, History, Languages, Music and Religious Education

Performing Arts

Acting, Singing, Dancing and Stagecraft

Engagement Steps

Engagement Steps is our new formative assessment framework for pupils not yet engaged in subject-specific learning. This framework will help teachers to record the achievements of pupils who are working profoundly beneath age-related expectations and who are working on an informal curriculum.

Steps4Life

Steps4Life is our new framework for individuals with SEND who are working towards independent living. It is primarily designed to be used from Key Stage 4 onwards. Some individuals will be working towards independent living, with employment while others will be working towards semi-independent living and others will be in supported living. The Steps4Life covers a wide range of areas and a wide ability range, it includes 7 levels that are the equivalent of P1 to P8 which replace the old Milestones, Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3 and RFQ Level 1 and 2.

Academic Skills

English, Maths, PSHE and Digital Skills

Life Skills

Food, Self-Care, Independence, Travel

Employability Skills

Identifying and Getting a Job, Your Rights, Workplace Routines and Skills

Preparing for Adulthood

We have created a small Preparing for Adulthood framework that covers the 4 PFA areas. It uses the same level structure as the Progression Steps, so goes from a developmental stage of around 18 months to around the developmental stage of a typical 15-year-old. It is not a big framework, it is not designed to be used on its own to support older learners. It has been created to be used alongside a subject based curriculum to the end of key stage 3. It works well with our Primary Steps or Progression Steps frameworks.

Autism Progress

We recognised a need for an assessment tool which could be used by all to assess the impact of a person's autism. Using autism descriptors already created by B Squared, the developers at Autism Progress have created a set of progressive levels in the following areas of autism:

Communication

Social Interaction

Flexibility of Thought

Emotional Regulation

Communication & Interaction

Our Communication and Interaction framework aims to give more structure around assessment and progress of a pupil's communication and interaction skills. The framework is designed to be used by Speech and Language Therapists and school staff to lead to a more collaborative approach. The framework is split into the following areas:

Spontaneous Verbal Communication (Spoken Language, Sign Language and Symbols)

Recorded Verbal Communication (Writing)

Non-verbal Communication

Using Technology to Communicate (AAC)

Primary Curriculum & Development Matters

To reduce workload and costs for schools, we are developing Connecting Steps to work for all pupils. We have created 2 new frameworks (Development Matters and Primary Curriculum) to allow Connecting Steps to be used in mainstream primary schools for all pupils. Schools can use the Development Matters and Primary Curriculum for pupils working at or near Age Related Expectations (ARE) and Early Steps and Primary Steps for pupils with SEND working below ARE.

Sample Pages

The samples over the next few pages are designed to give you an overview of

Engagement Steps

They show the different areas covered by this assessment framework and cover a range of ability levels.







	Started:	Completed:			
Attention Skills					
Demonstrates a reflex response to their own sounds Demonstrates reflex responses when not engaged with others, e.g. movement of mouth muscles Gives momentary attention to familiar food containers in front of them Gives momentary attention to pictures put in front of them Glances at light briefly when the source enters their field of vision Glances at objects within 50 centimetres when the objects are moved closer Opens their eyes for brief periods of time when encountering stimulating events Reacts to a range of sounds that are close by		Reacts to textures with minor physiological changes when feeling rough or smooth surfaces Startles to a sudden change in light Startles to sudden loud noises Startles to sudden movement Reacts to pain and other unpleasant stimuli Vocalises in response to pain or other unpleasant stimuli			



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Communication.	Communicating	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		Engagement Step 4

	Starteu	Completed:
	Communicating Preference & Choice	
Communicates consistent preferences with emotional responses when choices are provided Requests a favourite activity through their chosen form of communication when self-selecting tasks Requests physical contact with gestures or vocalisations when playing with peers Communicates with a member of staff by using an individual action or gesture when they want something Communicates with a member of staff by using consistent vocal noises when they want something Engages in new activities willingly when offered them by a familiar member of staff Indicates a preference when provided with two symbols of equally liked items Indicates a preference when provided with two pictures of equally liked items Indicates a preference when provided with two equally liked items Indicates a preference when provided with two equally liked items Initiates communication with a member of staff by going to a specific place, e.g. waiting by the cupboard for it to be opened	Initiates communication with a member of staff by pulling them to a location Initiates social games by taking a proactive role when engaging with a member of staff, e.g. hides their face and reveals it to start peek-a-boo Makes an intentional selection by eyepointing/switch-pressing/etc. when provided with a choice of two Makes requests for desired objects with gestures or vocalisations Protests vocally to a disliked or unknown foodstuff Reacts to the question "More?" with a heightened expressive response when offered continuation of an activity Rejects interaction/an object by turning their head or pushing away when provided with a disliked activity Requests 'more' of an action or object in their chosen form of communication	Communicates with a member of staff by using an individual action or gesture when they are hungry or thirsty Gestures to a member of staff to attract attention when not engaged in a task Protests the conclusion of an activity after working with a member of staff Indicates they wish to handle a new/unfamiliar object Attracts attention from a member of staff when they want something Refuses an object, activity or foodstuff when given to them by a member of staff, e.g. verbally or physically



	Started:	Completed:
	lukana satan	
	Interaction	
Babbles and uses single words during play	Understands 20 spoken words, signs, or symbols	Looks for a member of staff's reaction in an unfamiliar situation
Begins to vocally demonstrate the tone and rhythm of the language spoken at	Understands 30 spoken words, signs, or symbols	Offers an object to a member of staff on their own initiative
home Begins words with a range of consonant	Understands 50 spoken words, signs, or symbols	Offers an object to a peer on their own initiative
sounds when communicating Changes pitch indiscriminately whilst	Understands a wide range of single words and some two-word phrases in	Persists when trying to communicate Repeats a known phrase (delayed
babbling to themselves or others Changes volume indiscriminately whilst	familiar contexts, e.g. 'give me', 'shoe on'	echolalia) to initiate interaction or request
babbling to themselves or others Says a few words, signs or symbols	Answers yes/no questions using gestures or facial expressions when	Copies gestures and words from members of staff
understood by familiar adults Communicates with a vocabulary of 5	working with a member of staff Answers yes/no questions using rough signs or single words when working with	Imitates new words, signs, or symbols
words, signs, or symbols Communicates 10 single words using	a member of staff Answers yes/no questions using	Attempts to use sound/sign/symbol to imitate an animal
signs (not always clearly or accurately) when working with an adult	symbols when working with a member	Greets familiar people with consistent responses when contact is initiated by a
Communicates 10 single words using photos (not always clearly or	of staff Asks questions using gestures or facial	member of staff Greets familiar peers when asked to
accurately) when working with an adult Communicates 10 single words verbally	expressions when working with a member of staff	Communicates 'Hello' using words,
(not always clearly or accurately) when working with an adult	Asks questions using rough signs or single words when working with a member of staff	signs, or symbols Says 'Bye-bye' to familiar people with
Gazes from one speaker to another Imitates gestures or signs that a	Asks questions using symbols when	consistent responses when the situation is appropriate
member of staff often uses Imitates words, signs, or symbols of 5	working with a member of staff Copies 10-20 words immediately	Communicates 'Yes' and 'No' using words, signs, or symbols appropriately
objects Imitates words, signs, or symbols of 10	(echoing) Creates their own words (jargon) when	Creates long babbling sentences Communicates with peers using words,
objects Imitates words, signs, or symbols of 20	communicating with others Demonstrates an interest in words	gestures, or symbols
objects	through facial expressions when members of staff talk to them	Gives familiar people a name Momentarily maintains silence when
Imitates words, signs, or symbols of 30 words	Greets familiar people with consistent responses when contact is initiated by	another is talking Plays give-and-take games with little
Imitates words, signs, or symbols of 50 words	themselves Looks at the person talking to them	support
Seeks recognition by means of eye contact when their name is mentioned Takes part in a 'conversation' with a		
member of staff		
Understands 10 spoken words, signs, or symbols		



Functional Movement; Fine Motor Skills - Engagement Step	Step 6
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	Started:	Completed:
	Fine Motor Skills	
Blows bubbles in water Drinks from a cup Manipulates a dial Builds a tower of seven bricks Demonstrates good pencil control Scribbles in circles Copies a circle Imitates drawing circles and horizontal and vertical lines Unwraps a small object Snips with scissors Produces a single bounce of a ball Puts large round pegs into peg board	Fine Motor Skills Puts rings on a stacker Releases an object to pass to another person Screws and unscrews jar lids Takes the lid off to find an object placed in a container Threads three large beads onto a string Scoops with a fork Stabs with a fork Attempts to serve themselves at the table, with spills Draws a roughly straight line Holds an object with a tripod grip Puts the lid on a container	Removes clothes that are unfastened Turn a screw toy to the right Turns doorknobs Brushes their teeth thoroughly only with supervision Flushes the toilet Throws a bean bag into a box Bounces a small ball once Controls both hands simultaneously Chews and swallows a variety of textures Rolls a rough ball in malleable material Squeezes a ball, dough, etc. Turn a screw toy to the left



Functional Movement; Gross Motor Skills - Engagement Step 3

	Started:	Completed:
	Gross Motor Skills	
Grabs their feet by lifting their legs up when lying on their back Holds large objects in two hands during periods of play Holds large objects in two hands when working with a member of staff Sits up with support when eating Sits without support when eating Maintains the equilibrium of their body posture during immobility	Holds their head steady when eating Kicks their legs, stretching them out while lying on their stomach or back Maintains the equilibrium of their head during immobility, e.g. keeps their head stable on their neck Pushes down through their legs when their feet are on a firm surface Watches their own hands as they move towards an object	Maintains the equilibrium of their body posture during movement Maintains the equilibrium of their head during movement, e.g. keeps their head stable on their neck Rolls from prone to supine position unaided (stomach to back) Rolls from supine to prone position unaided (back to stomach)
Sits without support when eating Maintains the equilibrium of their body	their feet are on a firm surface Watches their own hands as they move	Rolls from supine to prone position



	Cognitive	
Communicates surprise if familiar object fails to complete an action, e.g. make a noise when button is pressed Identifies family members by looking or pointing when given a photograph Identifies family members by looking or pointing when they are present Interacts with a common object briefly when its name is spoken or signed Looks at their visual timetable with interest when it is placed in front of them Responds to different environmental sounds appropriately when they are part of familiar routines, e.g. looks at the door when the bell goes Anticipates the results of an action with excited mannerisms when a member of staff undertakes a known activity Applies a familiar action to a familiar cause-and-effect activity after a previous positive response Applies a new action to a familiar cause-and-effect activity to try and make it work Copies a member of staff building towers of three or four blocks when playing with bricks Copies a member of staff to knock down towers when playing with bricks Copies aimple actions using their facial expressions Explores facial expressions visually when working with others	Explores new objects willingly when offered by a familiar member of staff Explores objects by banging them when given appropriate items Explores objects by dropping them when given appropriate items Explores objects by scrunching them when given appropriate items Explores objects by shaking them when given appropriate items Explores objects by sliding them when given appropriate items Explores objects by tearing them when given appropriate items Explores objects by throwing them when given appropriate items Explores objects by throwing them when given appropriate items Explores objects using a variety of actions when provided with a wide range of items, e.g. squeezes a stress ball, rubs the flour around their tray, pulls skipping rope from an adult, etc. Explores sound-making objects with enjoyment when provided with rattles, bean bags, xylophones, etc. Identifies common objects by pointing/looking at them when they have been named Moves to their hands and knees from a sitting position when trying to reach an object/person Moves towards a member of staff to attract attention when not engaged in a task Pats a picture in a book to indicate recognition when a member of staff asks them to find a specific item	Pushes different shapes through matching holes when encouraged to so by an adult Puts different objects into container when encouraged to do so by a member of staff Scribbles on paper with a pen/pencil/crayon to imitate others when working Searches for appropriate clothing visually within a selection of two and with adult encouragement, when transitioning subjects Searches for objects with their eyes/hands when they fall out of signess the responses of members of by seeking attention before attempt new activities Tests the responses of members of by seeking attention before attempt previously prohibited activities Understands the meaning of the work 'No!' by responding when it has been exclaimed by a member of staff Recognises activities by reacting when excitement when provided with fam activities Releases an object voluntarily when offered a new object Explores objects on a tray in front of them Moves symbols on their timetable with it is placed in front of them Performs actions by trial and improvement when experiencing fair attempts



Self and Emotions; Awareness - E	Engagement Step 3
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Awareness				
Smiles with enjoyment when helped to	Demonstrates sadness through	Demonstrates sadness through		
bounce Smiles with enjoyment when eating a	expressions and body language when people upset them	expressions and body language whe actions upset them		
preferred food	Demonstrates surprise through	Reacts negatively when intense		
Smiles with enjoyment when helped to	expressions and body language when	movements stop, e.g. cries when		
stand	noises shock them	rocking is stopped		
Smiles at a familiar person when	Demonstrates excitement through expressions and body language when	Reacts excitedly to a change of environment when provided with		
engaging in an activity Smiles or laughs at familiar individuals	people/actions meet their expectations	familiar experiences		
intentionally whilst playing	Demonstrates surprise through	Reacts excitedly to a change of		
Demonstrates anger through	expressions and body language when	environment when provided with new		
expressions and body language when	actions shock them	experiences Reacts excitedly to a familiar voice		
people/actions frustrate them Demonstrates contentment through	Demonstrates contentment through expressions and body language when	when a member of staff initiates		
expressions and body language when	textures please them	interaction		
people meet their expectations	Demonstrates general happiness	Reacts excitedly to an activity when		
Demonstrates contentment through	through consistent responses when	provided with new experiences		
expressions and body language when people/actions please them	presented with familiar experiences	Reacts excitedly to intense movement when being swung or rocked		



Started: Completed: Completed: Contact when of distress a reassuring cously in a state of Contact when self-stimulating Contact Contact Contact Contact Contact Completed: Completed: Completed: Contact Completed: Completed: Contact Completed: Completed: Contact Completed: Contact Completed: Contact Completed: Contact Completed: Contact Completed: Comp
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when self-stimulating a reassuring busly in a state of When self-stimulating when self-stimulating Reduces vocal activity with physical
Idles for long periods of time when their

Self and Emotions; Regulation - Engagement Step 1





Name:	
Started:	Completed:

Sensory				
Responds to gentle tickling	Reacts to noises from others	Reacts when their hands are touched		
Acknowledges auditory pleasure by	ccasionally Reacts to sounds with an intermittent	with different textures Grasps a variety of textures		
brief responsive smiling when provided with enjoyable music/noises	heightened expressive response when hearing familiar noises, e.g. blinks at a	Turns their head to search for stimuli		
Acknowledges motion-based pleasure	musical toy	when their cheek is brushed		
by brief responsive smiling when provided with enjoyable movement	Reacts to the absence of sound after a	Grasps objects briefly when they are placed in their hand		
experiences	period of noise, with an intermittent heightened expressive response, e.g.	Reacts briefly to a change in position		
Acknowledges tactile pleasure by brief responsive smiling when provided with	turns head to look for sound Reacts to physical touch with an	Reacts when their fingers are touched		
enjoyable physical experiences	intermittent heightened expressive	Reacts when their toes are touched		
Acknowledges visual pleasure by brief responsive smiling when provided with	response when experiencing physiotherapy or massage	Seeks out proprioceptive input, e.g.		
enjoyable optical experiences	Turns their head to search for stimuli	grinds jaw		
Alerts to an unusual sound	when smells alert them to food out of sight	Reacts to deep pressure tactile stimulus		
Demonstrates fondness for soft textures	Turns their head to search for stimuli	Reacts to light pressure tactile stimulus		
Engages briefly with high-contrast patterns visually when in close range	when sounds alert them to actions out of sight	Reacts to soft texture tactile stimulus		
Likes a food consistently	Reacts to unpleasant noise or sounds,	Reacts to rough texture tactile stimulus		
	e.g. turns head away, cries Reacts when their feet are touched with	Reacts to water with an intermittent		
Dislikes a food consistently Reacts to light with an intermittent	different textures	heightened expressive response when in hydro/swimming pool		
heightened expressive response when	Holds objects with a variety of textures	in nyuro/swimining poor		
positioned towards a light source				



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www.connectingsteps.com/meetings

Or get in touch with us...

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