

Project Based Learning is an education methodology which emphasizes authentic learning activities that engage students' interests and create natural motivation for student participation. Experts in this burgeoning educational method have identified the essential elements of project based learning as:

1. **Significant Content** – At its core, the project that the students are engaged in is focused on teaching them important knowledge and skills.
2. **21st Century Skills** – The children will build on and practice valuable skills, such as critical thinking/problem solving, collaboration, and communication.
3. **Driving Question** – Project work is focused by an open-ended question that the children will explore or that captures the task they are completing.
4. **In Depth Inquiry** – The children will be engaged in a rigorous, extended process of asking questions, using resources, and developing answers.
5. **Need to Know** – The children see the need to gain knowledge, understand concepts, and apply their skills in order to create project products, beginning with an event that generates interest and curiosity.
6. **Voice and Choice** – The children are allowed to make some choices about the products to be created, how they work, and how they use their time, guided by the teacher and depending on age level and experience. There are many different modalities that are used in the projects.
7. **Revision and Reflection**– The project includes processes for the children to use feedback to consider additions and changes that lead to high-quality products and think about what and how they are learning.
8. **Authentic and Broader Audience** – The children present their work to other people, beyond their classmates and teacher.

*-From PBL in the Elementary Grades by Sara Hallermann and John Larmer, Buck Institute for Education, Novato, CA, 2011*