

TEACHING CHILDREN IN THREE LEARNING STYLES

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ABSTRACT

This article describes three main learning styles and using them to pupils from the elementary classes. Since they give an effective result and lighten the process of learning.

KEYWORDS: learning styles, education process, visual learning, kinesthetic learning, tactile learning, auditory learning, group discussion, physical activities.

INTRODUCTION

First of all, teaching children is the main task of all times. Since only they are our future.

A child's admission to school leads to a change in his social role and leading type of activity. How quickly and fully the child integrates into the educational process depends on his social and intellectual status in the future. Therefore, this process should not be left out of the close attention of teachers, psychologist and parents.

As we already know, there are 3 learning styles: visual, kinesthetic and auditory.

Visual learning is one of the three basic types of learning styles described in the Fleming VAK/VARK model in which a learner needs to see information in order to process it. Visual Learners can utilize graphs, charts, maps, diagrams, and other forms of visual stimulation to effectively acquire information. The Fleming VAK/VARK model also includes kinesthetic learning and auditory learning.

A review study concluded that using graphic organizers improves student performance in the following areas:

Students remember information better and can better recall it when it is represented and learned both visually and verbally.

The use of graphic organizers helps improve the reading comprehension of students.

Pupils with and without learning disabilities improve achievement across content areas and grade levels.

When pupils develop and use a graphic organizer their higher order thinking and critical thinking skills are enhanced.

From the ages 3–8 visual learning improves and begins to take many different forms. At the toddler age of 3–5, children's bodily actions structure the visual learning environment. At this age, toddlers are using their newly developed sensory-motor skills quite often and fusing them with their improved vision to understand the world around them. This is seen by toddler's using their arms to bring objects of interest close to their sensors, such as their eyes and face, to explore the object further. The act of bringing objects close to their face affects their immediate view by placing their mental and visual attention on that object and just blocking the view of other objects that are around them and out of view. There is an emphasis placed on objects and things that are directly in front of them and thus proximal vision is the primary perspective of visual learning.

Kinesthetic learning or tactile learning is a learning style in which learning takes place by the pupils carrying out physical activities, rather than listening to a lecture or watching demonstrations. As cited by Favre (2009), Dunn and Dunn define kinesthetic learners as pupils who require whole-body movement to process new and difficult information.

Subjects can be taught to cater for kinesthetic learners. Through a strength-based and learner-centered approach, educators should engage kinesthetic students in activities that require movements because they

learn by doing. Activities could include role-plays, drama, dance, races and competitions, field trips and projects.

Favre (2009) stated that instructional strategies should include movement in a game-like format. Favre suggested designing kinesthetic games. For example, “game boards such as Tic-Tac-Toe affixed to the classroom floor and hopscotch template painted on the playground tarmac or sidewalks around the school” (p. 32). Favre also suggested that instructors can use "commercial games such as Twister, Jeopardy and Nerf basketball and create game cards that align with their lesson objectives" (pp. 32–33).

Auditory learning is a learning style in which a person learns through listening. An auditory learner depends on listening and speaking as a main way of learning. Auditory learners must be able to hear what is being said in order to understand and may have difficulty with instructions that are drawn but if the writing is in a logical order it can be easier to understand. They also use their listening and repeating skills to sort through the information that is sent to them. They are good listeners when people speak.

Proponents say that teachers should use these techniques to instruct auditory learners: verbal direction, group discussions, verbal reinforcement, group activities, reading aloud, and putting information into a rhythmic pattern such as a rap, poem, or song.

We hear a lot about learning styles and we try to use them so that it is easy for us to remember or learn something. But if we use these same styles to pupils at school, especially from the elementary grades, we can show interest in each child's learning. All three learning styles give an effective result, since the child will no longer perform tasks with difficulties, they will learn the lessons well, because they are explained in a way that is easy for children to understand and remember.

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