

Learning in the Leaves

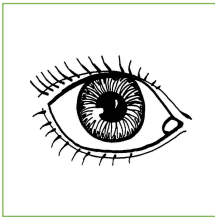
Learning Theory – Learning Styles



Introduction

This theory is one of the most basic and commonly applied in educational settings. It concentrates on people being individuals and learning in a variety of different ways. Individuals often find that they learn better in a certain way compared to others. This theory groups the different learning styles into three basic groups visual, audio and kinesthetic. A practitioner should understand the learning styles of their group and offer a variety of different activities for their learners to thrive.

The Different Styles



A Visual Learner's Qualities:

- They need to see the information on paper.
- In classes or during talks they take notes.
- They like nothing more than visual materials (pictures, diagrams, displays, flip-charts) and handouts.
- Have a good understanding of tables/charts/graphs.
- Often excellent at spelling.
- You usually find they have good handwriting.
- May write or draw ideas to help with their memory.
- May use highlighters, circle or underline key words.
- Need time to reorganise their information so they understand their learning.



An Audio Learner's Qualities:

- Often talks ideas aloud and understands them better after doing so.
- Memorises information by repeating it over and over.
- Notices and understands tones of voice.
- Easily distracted by other noises.
- Read slowly and struggle with written instructions/notes/handouts. Prefers to be read to.
- Likes learning through speeches and presentations.
- Like explaining/teaching concepts/skills to other people.
- Often struggle being quiet, especially for extended periods.
- Like music and humming.
- Like being around groups of people.
- Have a flair for the performing arts.



A Kinesthetic Learner's Qualities:

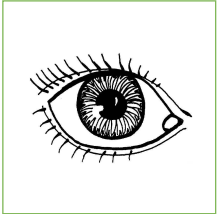
- Are constantly on the move and find it difficult to sit still. Will often fidget or fiddle with things when sitting still for long periods. Considered hyperactive.
- Enjoy physical activities.
- Struggle reading for long periods and take frequent breaks from it.
- Solve problems by physically working through them.
- Like trying new things.
- Are usually coordinated, agile and excel in athletics and performing arts.
- Move their hands whilst talking.
- Dress for comfort instead of style.
- Study on the floor or bed.
- Enjoy touching things

Learning in the Leaves

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Supporting different Learning styles:



Visual Learners:

- When teaching use visual resources such as graphs, charts, pictures, diagrams, slideshows.
- If giving verbal directions it can often help to write down the key words for them.
- Use and provide dry wipe boards and coloured pens.
- To highlight key information you can use colour cues, framing and symbols.
- Allow and encourage learners to write down information as you are talking.
- Use flash cards with key information, especially when memorising information. Ideal for when learning tool talks.
- Provide visual activities, maps, notes, written instructions, puzzles, matching activities, etc.



Audio Learners:

- Give directions orally and answer related questions orally.
- Encourage oral learners to repeat information orally, back to you if necessary.
- This recite and repeat method is ideal for learning and memorising information.
- Record information and allow the learner to listen to it again.
- Use video tapes, audio tapes and audio books.
- All different sized groupings to discuss ideas before starting.
- The musical element can help learners remember information. Use melodies, rhythms and beats to reinforce information.



Kinesthetic Learners:

- Essential kinesthetic learners need hands on resources to help learn; modeling clay, drawing materials, puzzles.
- When learning in the woodland, teach them in a hands on approach, e.g. if using a saw, teach them with the saw so they can do it as you teach.
- Teach through experiments, role-playing, projects and games.
- Kinesthetic learning is easily achieved in forest school practice as the whole area is so hands on.