



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

INFORMING, EDUCATING, EMPOWERING FAMILIES



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*Informing,
Educating,
Empowering
Families*

**Parent
Training
and
Information Center**

800-331-0688

www.fcsn.org/pti

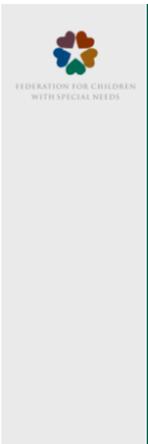


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**Understanding my Child's
Learning Style**

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Workshop goals

To understand different learning styles

- Visual
- Auditory
- Tactile/ Kinetic
- Mixed
- Inventories
- Activities
- Learning styles
- Parent Tips
- Valued Roles



Decide to Know Yourself... and your child



How do **YOU** learn best?

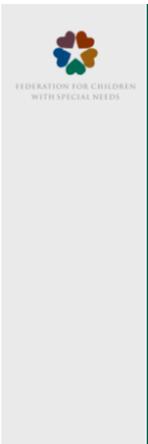
Can you make a guess?



Have you ever heard?

- Oh that's just...
- Lazy
- He gives up before he tries
- We know she can follow directions and turn in her homework, but she doesn't
- She needs to be in control of herself and not impulsive
- If he would only focus...
- He's more interested in being the class clown than really working





The way we are Wired...

We are all uniquely made and each of us have a preference of how we learn

One is not better than another

Just different!



What are Learning Styles?



- Wikipedia tells us that Learning Styles are simply, various approaches or ways of learning
- Learning Styles are preferences for where, when, or how a student obtains and processes information. Diane Heacox www.freespirit.com

What are Learning Styles?





Visual Inventory



Show by raising your hand

1. How many here will find something to watch if they are bored or taking a break?
2. Do you close your eyes to visualize or remember something?
3. Are you distracted by sounds ie: lawn mower, fan, tapping, quiet talking, motor cycle?
4. Do you have difficulty with spoken directions?
5. Are you attracted to rich imagery from story telling?
6. Do you color code things? <http://www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp>



Auditory Inventory



Show by raising your hand

1. Do you understand and remember things you've heard?
2. The truth...Do you talk to yourself?
3. Do you hum or sing if you are bored?
4. Do you remember something by the way it sounds?
5. Do you prefer listening over reading and writing?
6. Do you learn best by reading out loud in order to really know it?
7. Has anyone ever commented that you are not paying attention when really you are? <http://www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp>



Tactile/Kinetic Inventory



Show by raising your hand:

1. Do you learn by touching and doing?
2. Are your hands flying when your speaking?
3. Do you remember something better when you have a chance to do it?
4. Is it hard for you to sit still?
5. When given a choice do you prefer to learn by moving, building, drawing?
6. Do you learn best when given the opportunity for physical activity?
7. Do you find you need to take wiggle breaks?



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Mixed Style Inventory



Show by raising your hand

1. Do you remember best when writing lists?
2. Do you think any talk is OK but a handout is better?
3. If you have free time do you head to the library?
4. Do you think in words?
5. Do you spell words easily and correctly?
6. Do you enjoy writing your thoughts down?
7. Do you like to do crossword puzzles, word searches?



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Visual



Visual Learners are wired to:

1. Think in Pictures visualizing information as a pictures
2. Like to see the whole environment
3. Read illustrated books, magazines
4. Observe body language and facial expression to understand the full meaning of what is being said
5. Have great instinctive direction
6. Comprehend new ideas when they are connected to prior knowledge
7. Illustrate a new idea as a picture before writing it down
8. Use of Multi-media (computers, video's, YouTube)
9. Study in a quiet place away from verbal disturbances



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Making Your Learning Style Work for You!



Visual Learners benefit from:

- Writing things down
- Draw charts, pictures and maps to help you understand how things relate to each other
- Use planners, organizers or goal-setting charts
- Can remember where things are on a page of notes
- Convert lecture notes into learnable package by reducing them into picture pages
- Redraw your page from memory
- Graphic organizers with diagrams, concept maps will help in learning to mastery



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Parent Tips



1. Remember that your child needs to see things, not just hear things to learn
2. Help your child visualize things being heard or read
3. Look at all study materials
4. Use charts, maps, filmstrips, notes and flashcards.
5. Practice visualizing or picturing words/concepts in your head.
6. Write out everything for frequent and quick visual review



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Auditory



Auditory Learners are wired to:

- Listen to learn
- Be able to explain things well
- Enjoy music
- Memorize (phone #) by saying it out loud and then will remember how it sounded
- Will remember people's names
- Be good at good story tellers
- Follow spoken directions well
- Problem solve by talking it through
- Have trouble keeping quiet for long periods of time
- Chew gum and talk to yourself



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Auditory Activities

What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but never sleeps? (Submitted by Shane Menefee)

A river

You are driving a bus. Four people get on, three people get off, then eight people get on and ten people get off, then 6 people get on and 2 more people get off. What color were the bus driver's eyes? (Submitted by Cassie)

Whatever color your eyes are



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Making Your Learning Style Work for You!



Auditory learners benefit from:

- **Making speeches and presentations**
- **Putting information in a rhythmic patten like rap, song or poem**
- **Using a tape recorder during a lecture instead of taking notes and listen to them**
- **Reading text out aloud**
- **Participate in class discussions/ debates**
- **Create musical jingles or mnemonics to aid in memorization**
- **Discuss your ideas verbally or dictate for someone else to write**
- **Uses story telling to demonstrate the point**



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Parent Tips



- **Encourage your child to tell a story to demonstrate their point of view**
- **Use wishing...to help deal with disappointment**
- **Your child may study best when music is playing or when it's silent**
- **Put information studied into music, rap that your child creates**
- **Practice test taking by writing/reading aloud answers to old exams**



Kinesthetic

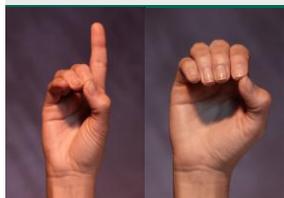


Kinesthetic/ Tactile Learners are wired to:

- Focus on two different things at the same time
- They will remember things by going back in their minds to what their body was doing
- Very high hand-eye coordination and very quick receptors
- Prefer hands on approach to learning
- Actively will explore the physical world around them
- Hard to sit still for long periods of time
- Need physical movement for activity and exploration

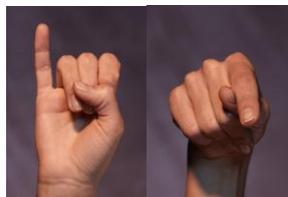


Kinesthetic Activity



What does this say?

DO IT!





Making Your Learning Style Work for You!

Tactile or Kinesthetic learners benefit from:



- Taking frequent study/movement breaks
- Chew gum while studying
- Use bright colors to highlight reading material
- Move around to learn new things- hands on
- Work in a standing position
- Listen to music while studying
- Skim reading material to get a rough idea what it is about before settling down to read it in detail
- Express themselves through movement



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Parent Tips



- Provide opportunity for extra curricula activities: sports, dance, acting
- Encourage your child to make their own study guides
- When explaining something you may want to use role play to be sure the information is understood
- Going to the environment (field trip) Aquarium, Zoo, Museum
- Promote listening to music while studying, doing chores or working



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Mixed Learning Styles or Kinesthetic/Tactile Learners



Kinesthetic/ Tactile Learners are wired to:

- Read for hours
- Write journals
- Enjoy riddles
- Have excellent memory for names dates or trivia
- Think in words or pictures
- Gifted at story telling
- Like to learn new words



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Learn Best by Mixing Learning Styles!





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Making Your Learning Style Work for You



Mixed learners benefit from:

- Write spelling words out again and again
- Read study notes silently repeatedly
- Rewrite ideas from your notes put into your own words
- Use diagrams graphs to help you to remember
- Imagine your lists
- Write paragraphs, beginnings and endings
- Write subject area in an outline format
- Convert diagrams, graphs, charts into words



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Parent Tip



- Encourage to create and solve word problems
- Make time for hands on activities
- Promote journal writing
- It's easier for your child to learn if they use:
 - Lists
 - Dictionaries
 - Glossaries
 - Handbooks
 - Textbooks



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Little Known Fact



- Learning improves when the learner is an active participant in the educational process.
- When selecting among several teaching methods, it is best to choose the method that allows the learner to become most involved.
- Using varied methods of teaching helps the learner maintain interest and may help to reinforce concepts without being repetitious.



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Truth in LEARNING



Children, at all ages have the potential to learn with some learning faster than others, based on style

Children vary in way they like to learn

Children experiencing a change, such as a new learning environment or situation, are likely to feel stress and confusion

The environment should foster trust and acceptance of different ideas and values.



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Truth in LEARNING

Some anxiety in children often increases motivation to learn

Children experiencing too much anxiety may cause:

- fatigue
- inability to concentrate
- resentments
- other barriers to learning.



Learning is more comfortable and effective when the classroom supports sharing of opinions, and problem-solving strategies.



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Multiple Intelligences



Musical Rhythmic Gift

Apply your smarts to:

Hobbies

Recreation

Careers



Kinesthetic and
Common Sense Gift



Verbal Linguistic Gift



Interpersonal Gift



Intrapersonal Gift



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LIFE Impacted by Learning Styles

Many things in life are impacted
by our learning style

1. Relating to others
2. Choice we make
3. Conversations
4. Careers selections
5. Social situations





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Valued Roles



- Assisting with attendance
- Checking computation
- Line Leader
- Answering questions
- Participating in Activities
- Expectations to Learn
- Passing out papers
- Trying new things
- Access to all activities
 - Field Trips
 - Gym
 - After school Activities

What valued role can your child successfully complete at home?



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Resources



Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN) www.fcsn.org
 Parent Training & Information Center at FCSN <http://fcsn.org/bti/>
 MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education www.doe.mass.edu
 MA PIRC at FCSN-Parent's PLACE www.pplace.org
 Family TIES at FCSN www.massfamilyties.org
 Disability Law Center www.dlc-ma.org
 Massachusetts Arc <http://www.arcmass.org/>
 Massachusetts Advocates for Children www.massadvocates.org
 Mass. Association of Special Education PACs www.masspac.org
 Parent Professional Advocacy League (PAL) <http://ppal.net/default/>
 Parent's Guide <http://www.fcsn.org/parentguide/pgintro.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_learning
 Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom by Diane Heacox
www.freepint.com



Thanks for Coming!