

Learning Style Characteristics

Area Observed	Visual	Auditory	Kinesthetic/Tactile/Haptic
Learning Style	Learns by seeing or watching demonstrations	Learns through verbal instructions from others or self	Learns by doing or direct involvement
Reading	Likes descriptions; sometimes stops reading to stare into space and imagine the scene; intense concentration	Enjoys dialogue, plays; avoids lengthy description; unaware of illustrations; moves lips or subvocalizes	Prefers stories where action occurs early; fidgets when reading, handles books, not an avid reader
Spelling	Recognizes words by sight; relies on configuration of words	Uses a phonics approach; has auditory word attack skills	Often is a poor speller; writes words to determine if they "feel" right
Handwriting	Tends to be good; spacing and size are good; appearance is important	Has more difficulty learning early stages; tends to write lightly; says strokes when writing	Good initially; deteriorates when space becomes smaller; pushes hard when writing
Memory	Remembers faces, forgets names; writes things down, takes notes	Remembers names, forgets faces; remembers by auditory repetition	Remembers best what was done, not what was seen or talked about
Imagery	Vivid imagination; thinks in pictures; visualizes in detail	Subvocalizes, thinks in sounds; details less important	Imagery not important; images that do occur are accompanied by movement
Distractibility	Generally unaware of sounds; distracted by visual disorder or movement	Easily distracted by sounds	Not attentive to visual or auditory presentation so seems distractible
Problem Solving	Deliberate; plans in advance; organizes thoughts by writing them; lists	Talks problems out, tries solutions verbally, talks self through problem	Attacks problems physically; often selects solution involving greatest activity
Response to Periods of Inactivity	Stares; doodles; finds something to watch	Hums; talks to self or to others	Fidgets; finds reasons to move; holds up hand
Response to New Situations	Looks around; examines structure	Talks about situation's pros and cons, what to do	Tries things out; touches, feels; manipulates
Communication	Quiet; does not talk at length; becomes impatient when extensive listening is required; may use words clumsily; describes without embellishment; uses words such as see, look, etc.	Enjoys listening but cannot wait to talk; descriptions are long but repetitive, likes hearing self and others talk; uses words such as listen, hear	Gestures when speaking; does not listen well; stands close when speaking or listening; quickly loses interest in detailed verbal discourse; uses words such as get, take, etc.
General Appearance	Neat, meticulous, likes order; may choose not to vary appearance	Matching clothes not important, can explain choices of clothes	Neat but soon becomes wrinkled through activity