

# Ways Of Learning



Discover your Child's Learning Needs  
to Unlock their Full Potential

# Ways of Learning

Students learn in different ways. Teachers tend to teach in only two or three ways. One of the main reasons some students struggle to get the most out of lectures is because the way they are being taught does not match the way they like to learn.

There are eight types of intelligence and as everyone uses their best intelligence to help them learn quickly and easily there are eight ways people learn. No one way is better than another – unless you are a student!

University teaching uses lectures, expects students to read texts, and start discussion groups to help students learn. These are all good teaching methods but they work best for a student who has good verbal intelligence and who learns best when by talking, listening, reading and writing.

What about the students who are not verbal learners? They can still learn but they have to go through the additional process of adapting how they are being taught to how they learn best. If they do not have the strategies they need learning becomes more difficult.

Here is a list of each type of learning style and some strategies that can help make sense of how you are being taught.

**\* Verbal learners** – this type of learner will find learning relatively easy because most university teaching is based on the use of words. Good note taking skills will help this learner make sense of lectures.

\* **Visual learners** – these learners learn best when they can use diagrams and flow charts. Rather than taking notes this type of learner would learn more by creating a mind map and linking information in a visual way.

\* **Kinesthetic learners** – sitting still is hard for these learners. They are the ones who struggle to find a comfortable spot while they listening to a lecture. Moving around the room is not an option but many of these students can concentrate more when they have something to hold in their hands while they listen.

\* **Intrapersonal learners** – sitting in lectures works for this type of learner who likes to work out problems by themselves rather than sharing their thoughts with others. This type of learner needs use specific strategies to help record the information because he or she will be unlikely to ask others for help.

\* **Interpersonal learners** – need to share their ideas and learn best when working in a group. Being part of a study group can help them learn. Each person in the group can take responsibility for reviewing one part of the lesson.

\* **Musical learners** – learn best when the lecturer has a pleasant voice and puts lots of expression into the way he or she teaches. Harsh noises and unpleasant voices impede their ability to take in information. There is little this type of learner can do while in the lecture but afterwards he or she can review the notes while listening to music. This will help them remember what they were taught.

\* **Nature learners** – need to be close to the natural world. Lecture halls are often insulated from this world and the learning environment can be uncomfortable for a student who needs to

be around natural things to help him learn. If there is no window in the lecture hall the student could have a photo of a natural setting to look at from time to time. This might help him or her reconnect with the lesson.

**\* Logical learners** – learn best when there is structure and organization. Good lecturers have a structure to their lessons and even better lectures make sure that students know what it is before they start teaching. Difficulties occur when this type of learner does not see the structure in a lecture and cannot create a logical train of thought as a result. If and when this happens this type of student needs to review their notes and reorder them so that they make sense to him.

Every learner has a learning style that is made up of one or more of the eight styles listed above. When the learner knows their learning style he or she can use strategies to help them learn more no matter how they are taught.

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