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ready to learn.
Experimenting with
different learning styles
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and achievements.*

Understanding your Child's Preferred Learning Style

All Utah students have the opportunity to explore learning styles and to identify their personal strengths as part of the Technology, Life and Careers (TLC) curriculum. Ask them about it!

By understanding your child's preferred learning style you can:

- Keep your expectations realistic
- Help your child at home
- Become an advocate for your child at school
- Teach your child coping skills for situations that are not geared to his or her learning style

Experimenting with different learning styles may improve your child's accomplishments and achievements.

UCRN Utah Career Resource Network
1-800-733-7887
www.utahcareers.info

Discover Your Child's Learning Styles

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▶ THE PARENT SERIES



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What are Learning Styles?

Every child is born ready to learn. Yet children (and adults) have ways in which they learn best. A child might succeed in learning through a combination of learning styles, but usually there is one learning style that is favored over the others.

When you identify the best ways for your child to learn, you will be better equipped to help your child have positive learning experiences.

Did you know that while you may be able to spell by visualizing a word, your child may not be able to memorize his or her spelling words unless he or she writes them on paper first? Or that your child's incessant pencil tapping actually helps him or her stay on task?

THE MOST COMMON LEARNING STYLES:

The three most common learning styles are:

- Visual
- Auditory
- Physical (Kinesthetic)

Visual Learners learn by watching. They call up images from the past when trying to remember and picture the way things look in their heads. For example, when spelling a word, they picture the way the word looks.

Visual learners may also enjoy art and drawing, read maps, charts, and diagrams well and like mazes and puzzles.

Ways to teach visual learners include making flashcards of key information that needs to be

memorized, drawing symbols or pictures, using highlighter pens, making charts, and translating words and ideas into symbols, pictures, and diagrams.

Auditory Learners benefit from traditional teaching techniques. Auditory learners succeed when directions are read aloud or information is presented and requested verbally. They remember facts when presented in the form of a poem, song or melody.

Auditory learners also like to tell stories and jokes, play word games and use tape recorders. Ways to teach auditory learners include reading out loud together, encouraging them to read out loud when they study so they can “hear” the instruction, studying with a partner so they can talk out the solutions to problems, and writing out a sequence of steps to solve a problem, then reading the steps out loud.

Physical Learners learn best through movement and physical manipulation. They like to find out how things work and to touch, feel and experience what they are being asked to learn. Half of all students in high school and beyond are physical learners.

Physical learners may also show a need to manipulate or handle things, have a short attention span, need to be moving in order to learn, or show you things rather than telling you about them.

Ways to teach physical learners include letting them participate in science or math laboratories, creating and participating in drama presentations, going on field trips, creating and performing skits and dances, encouraging them to take notes and draw diagrams, and having the students make models.

HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING STYLE

Observation: Watch how your child tackles new tasks and interacts with his or her world.

The Visual Learner:

- Notices details
- Is aware of similarities and differences
- Often has good hand-eye coordination
- May be quiet and deliberate
- May have a vivid imagination
- May have trouble remembering verbal directions and messages

The Auditory Learner:

- Talks to him or herself
- Hums and asks lots of questions
- May want to make a lot of noise if it is too quiet
- May be distracted by having too many sounds at one time
- Is very social and loves to talk about what he or she is doing

The Physical Learner:

- Seems to be in constant motion
- Needs to handle and try things out in order to understand them
- May need to be moving in order to learn