

The Myth of Learning Styles

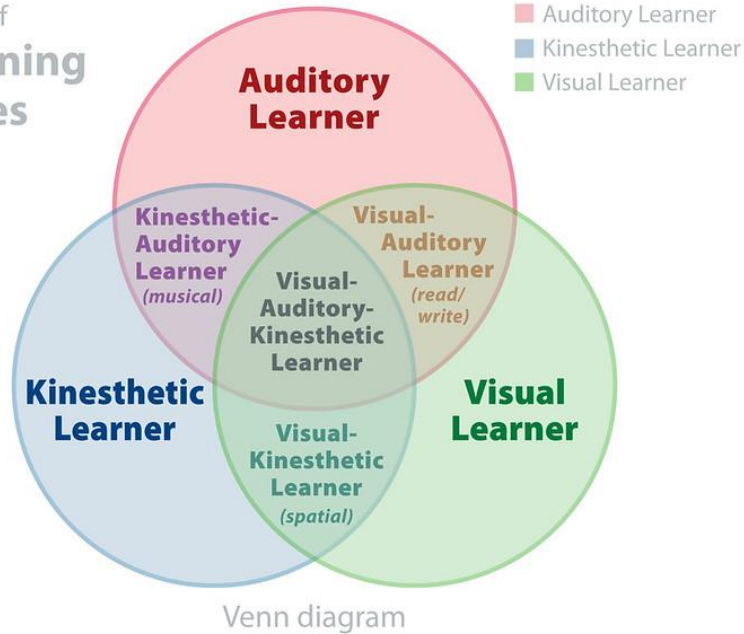
Erica Diclemente

"EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLE"

"ALL STUDENTS HAVE A DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLE"

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE FOR
LEARNING STYLES

Types of Learning Styles



We have spent years learning about these “learning styles” and how, as teachers, we teach to support multiple styles.

You are going to learn how to view this differently...

Learning Styles Venn Diagram. [Photo used with permission from JoanDragonly](#) via Flickr

COGNITIVE ABILITIES VS. COGNITIVE STYLES

How we work with content.

“Capacity for or success in certain types of thought”(2009, p.149)

Example: Suzy has a lot of ability in Science → Suzy tends to learn new Science concept quickly.

How we prefer to learn.

“...Biases or tendencies to think in a particular way”(2009, p.149)

Example: If a student thinks sequentially

2 METHODS TO IMPROVE INSTRUCTION

#1 Differences in Cognitive Style

**Focus on
preferred style**

#2 Differences in Abilities

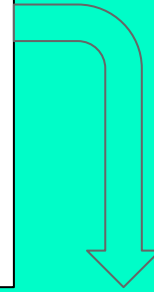
**Strengths
Overpower
Weaknesses**

VISUAL, AUDITORY, AND KINESTHETIC

Visual = seeing with your eyes

Auditory = listening with your ears

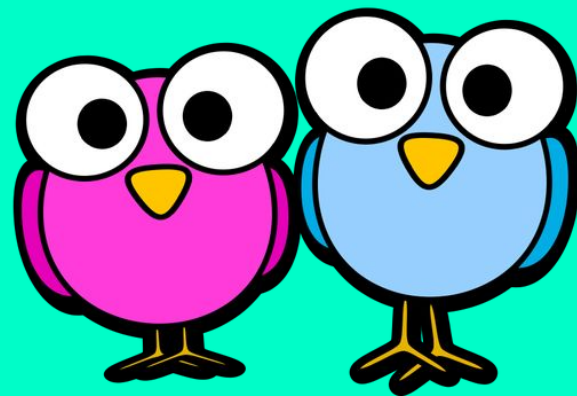
Kinesthetic = moving with your body



Everyone learns new
information through 3
senses.

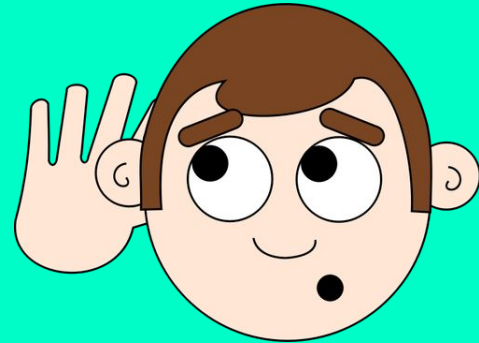
VISUAL LEARNING

- Learning by seeing
- Watching a PowerPoint Slide
- Watching a teacher model a task



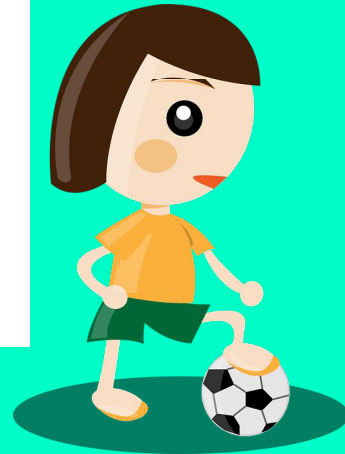
AUDITORY LEARNING

- Learning through hearing
- Listening to a speaker at a conference
- Hearing teacher directions



KINESTHETIC LEARNING

- Learning through your body
- Knowing that when you kick a soccer ball your leg follows through
- Learning site words through arm motions



LET'S TRY THIS OUT!

A graphic of a timer showing 15:00. The numbers are white with a black outline, set against a background of colorful, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of green, yellow, and orange. The entire graphic is framed by a black border.

15:00

- You have a class with all different learning preferences.
- Think of a way to incorporate all 3 senses into a lesson you recently taught.
- Does this lesson support **all** learners?
- How might you **enhance** this lesson to benefit everyone?

EXIT TICKET

1. What is something you KNEW?
2. What is something you LEARNED?
3. What is something you WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?

Resources

Kirschner, P. A., & van Merriënboer, J. (2013). Do learners really know best? Urban legends in education. *Educational Psychologist*, 48(3), 169-183.

Willingham, D. T. (2009). Why don't students like school?: A cognitive scientist answers questions about
How the mind works and what it means for the classroom. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.