

Summary of Learning Styles

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There are five different primary learning styles; these are the way we learn things every day. We all utilize many different learning styles every day, but each person usually has one that is dominant.

Learning Style	Description	Strengths
Visual	Learns through written word, pictures, graphs, charts, diagrams Easier to learn from visual sources than read to Usually like to doodle and draw Likes to draw or write what they are trying to learn.	Able to store visual pictures of things they have seen in their minds. global thinkers Good at seeing the overall picture. Good at identifying patterns. Organized and like to plan out things.
Auditory	Learns by hearing and listening. Understands oral information better than in writing. Needs to hear something to remember it. Learn best from speeches/ presentations	Good at following verbal instructions. Enjoy talking and being social. Usually has good rhythm Music comes easily to them.
Kinesthetic	Learning through sense of touch. Prefer to do something themselves, rather than seeing or hearing about it Sitting still may be difficult. Often learn better when able to move.	Good at physical activities Good at sports Very coordinated Full of energy Good at multitasking
Logical	Systematic approach to learning Very organized. Make connections easily Excel at math Prefer to be presented with just the facts Prefer and enjoy working within boundaries Rules are helpful for them Creativity can be a challenge, as well as seeing the big picture.	Good at organizing and planning their time. Able to set and meet goals Skilled at strategy games. Excel at math and working with numbers.
Verbal	Express themselves well Enjoy reading and writing Love both the written and spoken word. Have an extensive vocabulary Ask a lot of questions Easier to follow verbal or written instructions than pictorial ones. Enjoy editing Fascinated by language usage.	Learn languages easily. Good at reading and writing. Better at word problems in math rather than equations.

This is just a short description of the primary learning styles. It is helpful as a home educator to know how your child learns best. This way you can either customize their curriculum to their learning, add to their curriculum when you see they are not understanding something, or make changes to the learning environment to suit their needs.

For example, if a child is a kinesthetic learner you may decide to use a curriculum that consists of more hands-on learning or activities that allow for movement or manipulation of things. A kinesthetic learner may be comfortable with using a traditional curriculum, but they might need to move around as they are doing their work. They find it easier to think when they are bouncing on an exercise ball or when they are standing up while working at a table (rather than sitting in a chair).

On the other hand, a visual learner may need to use pictures to explain their learning. Charts, diagrams and visual aids might help to deepen their understanding of a concept. When watching videos or examining photographs, they may get information from the smaller details that they've observed in the images rather than what was being said or written.

An auditory learner may retain the information better if the material is read to them or if they are able to read it out loud to themselves. If a story seems difficult to process after the first reading, it may become clearer if read aloud. The emotions and messages carried by the tone of voice being used by someone are not lost on this type of learner. Poems and songs are a wonderful means of summarizing learning for this type of learner too.

A logical learner may be overwhelmed with a curriculum that is literature-based or holistic because they prefer the straight-forward presentation of textbooks and workbooks. A logical learner may struggle with a curriculum that requires them to sort through too much information to find the facts. However, putting things together to make sense of a large array of information, or organizing information into sensible groupings may be easier for this type of learner. Once a rule has been mastered, this learner has an easier time applying that rule and linking it to others.

The verbal learner excels at reading and writing, but will have a harder time figuring out the correct information from a chart, graph or picture. These learners are great communicators through talk and text, but may have difficulty when presented with other forms of communication. Sometimes these learners have an easier time explaining their learning by talking about it instead of writing about it; their writing may closely resemble the way they speak.

