



# Early Intervention Newsletter

## Learning Styles

By seeking early intervention services for your child you were probably hoping to learn new information about your child and about how you could assist your child in his or her development. Adults as well as children display various learning styles. Individuals demonstrate preferences for learning in relation to the circumstances surrounding learning, the use of the senses to gather information during learning, how the information gathered from the senses is processed, and how the information gathered and processed leads to a response. **Please look at the following questions related to learning style variables and consider the answers for you and your child.**

Consider sharing these answers with your early intervention professional, as your preferences for learning are relevant.

Are **YOU** or **YOUR CHILD**:

\* "Street" or "Book" Smart?

Do **YOU** or **YOUR CHILD**:

\* prefer to learn in a structured and specific type of environment, or prefer any type of environment?

\* prefer to learn alone, with others, or to help others and learn alone?

\* consider **WHO** presents information as important as **WHAT** is being presented or consider **WHAT** is being presented as more important than **WHO** is presenting?

\* prefer to use your sight or your hearing to learn new information?

\* prefer to keep your thoughts as you are learning new information to yourself or verbalize them out loud?

\* learn best by practicing what you are learning?

\* notice **HOW** something is said as much as **WHAT** is actually said?

\* need to see the "BIG" picture before you can truly learn something new?

\* prefer to learn things step-by-step?

\* enjoy thinking, talking, and doing "inside your head?"

\* prefer "hands-on" physical activity when learning?

\* prefer to follow the rules or make your own judgments?

\* pay attention to how things are the **SAME** or how things are **DIFFERENT**?

\* jump right into something newly learned, or consider it carefully before diving in completely?

You probably noticed differences between your answers and your child's answers. You may even answer differently when learning different types of information or during various life events.

Jensen, E. (2000). *Brain-based learning*. San Diego, CA: The Brain Store Publishing.

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## Parent Infant Program

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**4. Accentuate the Positive.** Eliminate the Negative. Never point out a shortcoming without first emphasizing a positive.

**5. Know and Accept Your Child's Limitations.** We all need to find things we can do well. Self-esteem feeds on achievement. A true basketball team needs more than a scorer; it needs rebounders, defense and understanding of the game. Allow those that excel in these skills to use them and praise them for it. If your child excels in one area, let them achieve in this area while gradually improving others.

## Parents Share: Coaching & Teaching

- shared by a parent who coached one of his children's sports teams for years

Coaching is teaching and both are a great joy and a tremendous responsibility. Every parent is a teacher whether in sports or life's behaviors. Tips on how your child will learn best:

1. **Coach to the Right Goal.** Not to winning every game or doing something perfectly.

Improving skills and the process of learning are most important.

2. **Make Learning Fun.** If you want kids to learn, make it fun. Design games and techniques where they can apply the skills you are teaching them. Remember - **FUNdamentals**.

Go down to their level of thinking. Don't try to bring them up to yours. What was fun when you were a toddler?

3. **Be Generous with Praise.** Nothing has a better effect on children or is more motivational than a compliment, especially in front of others.

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## Early Intervention Resources

☺ Information about The Infancy and Early Childhood Training Course Conference in Tysons Corner, VA on April 23-26, 2004  
<http://www.stanleygreenspan.com/appearances.htm>

☺ Va-LEND Program  
VMI Building, Room 320  
1000 East Marshall Street  
P.O. Box 980405  
Richmond, VA 23298-0405  
Phone: 804/828-0073  
Fax: 804/828-0098  
E-mail: [jwillis@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:jwillis@mail2.vcu.edu)  
<http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/Va-LEND/>  
This web site includes links to other resources

☺ Links to adult learning resources:  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/training/stod/adlearner.html>

☺ Great web site on the principles of coaching and teaching children:  
<http://www.kidsfirstsoccer.com/philos.htm>

☺ Take a learning style quiz on-line or print out a version of the test and take it with your early intervention therapist. See the following web site:  
<http://adulted.about.com/library/weekly/aa110799.htm>

**“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”**

*-William Arthur Ward*

