

Kelly Moorman

February 29, 2012

[722-734 words — stay below 740/734 words]

~~Your Style, Your Curriculum~~ Discovering Your Child's Learning Style

by Kelly Moorman

Comment [Kennedy1]: Since your audience is the parent, let's direct this toward them and not the child. Also, we want to be unambiguous about the topic.

Today's student deserves a rich, rigorous curriculum which is differentiated according to

his/ or her personal academic, social, and emotional needs. -Determining your child's

Comment [Kennedy2]: This is understood.

learning style is important for success! as well as their style of learning. Furthermore,

Comment [Kennedy3]: Again, let's reintroduce the topic early on so everyone knows what this article is about.

The child, the teaching team, and the parents must consistently communicate along this educational journey to ensure that academic goals are being met and/or exceeded. A team approach is mandatory to ensure the-your child's success.

~~A Few Words from the Experts~~ Why is this so important?

Comment [Kennedy4]: The other is fine, but this is more on topic.

Rick Wormeli, national educational consultant and author of *Middle Ground*, believes

Formatted: Font: Italic, No underline

that differentiating the curriculum is best practice in education. -"It's whatever conscientious teachers do to increase students' learning over that which otherwise could be achieved by a one-size-fits-all approach. Simultaneously, DI (Differentiated Instruction) builds learner dexterity and self-advocacy, so students can handle anything that is not differentiated for them." (September 2011, *Middle Ground Magazine*).

Comment [Kennedy5]: Q: Can you give me a little more info about this, like, where was this in the magazine? Was it in a particular article (in which case, can you give me the title)? Or was it in the Letter from the Editor? I'm feeling like something is missing...

A conscientious teacher is what every child deserves. The more a teacher knows and understands a child, the greater the educational impact. Founder of The Kinder Garden

Kelly Moorman

February 29, 2012

School, Tami Lanham, believes the “intentional Teacher” will recognize that each child learns differently and brings unique schema to each lesson. Additionally, the intentional Teacher will adapt curricular materials purposefully, with the unique learning styles of each and every student in mind.

Comment [KEK6]: Since you drew attention to this the first time with quotes, you don't need to the second time.

According to Carol Ann Tomlinson, author of numerous gifted education books, there are three learning styles: visual, auditory, ~~visual~~, and kinesthetic.

Visual

~~Providing +~~Visual learners gain from what they see. ~~Stimulation for the learner includes displays, charts, and posters.~~ Child-friendly, brightly colored images which are with easy to read texts will stimulate the visual learner's brain. Displays, charts, and posters will help the child retain what they are learning.

Comment [Kennedy7]: NEED SLIGHT REVISION: For each of these three, let's start with the child and how they learn. For example, we would START with “Visual learners gain from what they see.” Then give more explanation. This will be more direct. Remember also that some parents are starting at zero when it comes to knowledge about this. So we need to spell out that this is how the child learns and remembers best.

Comment [Kennedy8]: Q: What did you mean? “Brightly colored images with easy-to-read text”? (We don't “read” “images” per se.)

~~Visual learners gain from what they see.~~

Auditory

Auditory learners acquire knowledge through listening. Rhyming lyrics and musical chants can also be helpful cues to signal schedule changes or transitions. Examples of auditory stimulation ~~for~~ would include rhyming lyrics, musical chants, and short lectures—approximately ~~40~~ ten minutes or less, followed by verbal interaction like small group discussion or Q & A sessions. Acquiring and processing information in this manner

Kelly Moorman

February 29, 2012

facilitates learner retention. ~~Rhyming lyrics and musical chants can also be helpful cues to signal schedule changes or transitions.~~

Comment [KEK9]: Put this info in your new first sentence about how auditory learners learn.

Kinesthetic

Adding physical movement or opportunities to be mobile in the classroom are beneficial for the kinesthetic learner. Noteworthy strategies for the tactile learner would include tracing letters in sand to learn spelling or using base-ten blocks or everyday objects like base ten blocks and macaroni noodles, miniature noodles and base ten blocks to teach math skills, such as counting, sorting, addition or subtraction are noteworthy strategies for the tactile/kinesthetic learner.

Comment [KEK10]: Good first sentence.

Comment [Kennedy11]: RE: Tactile:

Comment [Kennedy12]: Q: Please clarify for me: What are miniature noodles? Do you mean small noodles, like shells or macaroni? Also, this reads as though base-ten blocks are everyday objects; so, I would just reverse these two, and then the problem is fixed!

Comment [Kennedy13]: RE: Tactile:

A Garden of Possibilities

Theorist Howard Gardner has also has contributed ds to the realm of differentiated curriculum and by identifying specific avenues for learning which he calls “intelligences.” Kathy Scott, Lead Early-Enrichment teacher at Summit Country Day, believes in creating a prepared environment which stimulates particular “intelligences.” For example, while her preschoolers investigate bones (Science), Scott sings along to a musical tune featuring the scientific vocabulary for the unit as she points to bones and joints. Associating the vocabulary with the kinesthetic movement and song presents preschoolers with layers of educational avenues, influences, pathways. Consider the following are Gardner’s “intelligences”: from Howard Gardner:

Comment [KEK14]: Again, get the subtopic out there right away so there's no confusion.

Kelly Moorman

February 29, 2012

Linguistic: Understands spoken and written language, and has the ability to learn and communicate through languages.

Logical/Mathematical: ~~Capacity to a~~ Analyzes problems logically, and recognizes patterns.

Musical: ~~S~~ Has skills in the performance, composition, and appreciation of musical patterns.

Kinesthetic: ~~Ability to a~~ Uses mental abilities to coordinate bodily movements and solve problems.

Spatial: ~~Potential to r~~ Recognizes and utilizes open and confined spaces.

Interpersonal: Understands sing the intentions, motivations, and desires of other people.

Intrapersonal: Understands sing oneself, to and appreciates one's own feelings, fears, and motivations.

Naturalist: ~~Categorizing and o~~ Observes, categorizes, and utilizes features of the natural environment.

Comment [KEK15]: For all 8, I tried to make them uniform in structure, starting with a verb.

Parent/Child Role in Curriculum-You and Your Child's Role

Today's children need to be conscious of his/her/their unique academic, social, and emotional needs in order to flourish. Parents should be capable of identifying their child's primary learning style. Furthermore, the parent and child should be capable of pinpointing-see differentiated instruction on a daily basis — various meaningful projects,

Kelly Moorman

February 29, 2012

authentic assessments, independent projects, mentoring ~~opportunities, and~~ technological opportunities, and more. If you don't see evidence of differentiation in your child's classroom, you should ~~I~~ inquire.

Teachers must ~~T~~ake the ~~T~~ime to ~~P~~ersonalize

Maximizing learning opportunities in today's 21st-century classroom is a primary goal for teachers and administrators alike. ~~To~~ achieve this, identification of learning styles and personal intelligence is an absolute must.

Kate Pinkard, director of communication and development ~~from~~at Children's Meeting House Montessori, suggests that "teachers take a significant amount of time at the beginning of the year to learn about the child as a *whole*." Recognizing and accepting the child's strengths, weaknesses, unique talents, personality characteristics, and work ethic is ~~a~~ must-essential for today's teachers. Pinkard recommended conducting a simple Q & A sessions with ~~the~~ students in an informal manner. ~~Having~~ a comprehensive understanding of the child's learning styles will drive the instruction and, in turn, foster a rich curricular experience for ~~the~~ your child.

Kelly Moorman

[REDACTED]

February 29, 2012

