



## LEARNING STYLES

You have probably noticed that when you try to learn something new that you prefer to learn by listening to someone talk to you about the information. Some people prefer to read about a concept to learn it; others need to see a demonstration of the concept.

Students take in and process information in different ways: by seeing and hearing, reflecting and acting, reasoning logically and intuitively, analyzing and visualizing. Just like learning styles vary so do teaching methods. Some teachers lecture, others lead students through self-discovery, some focus on principles and others on the application of the material, some emphasize memory and others understanding.

When a mismatch of styles occurs between learning styles and teaching styles the student may become bored and inattentive, do poorly on tests, and get discouraged.

Here at Closing the Gaps Learning Center we determine your child’s learning style and capitalize on it. By getting a better understanding of your child’s learning style we are able to individualize instruction and target his/her preferred style. Whether working in a small group or in a one-to-one setting, your child will follow an educational plan that is tailored to meet his/her individual needs.

This chart helps you determine your learning style. Your answers may fall into all three columns, but one column will likely contain the most answers. The dominant column indicates your primary learning style.

<i>When you..</i>	Visual	Auditory	Kinesthetic & Tactile
Spell	Do you try to see the word?	Do you sound out the word or use a phonetic approach?	Do you write the word down to find if it feels right?
Talk	Do you sparingly but dislike listening for too long? Do you favor words such as <i>see, picture, and imagine</i> ?	Do you enjoy listening but are impatient to talk? Do you use words such as <i>hear, tune, and think</i> ?	Do you gesture and use expressive movements? Do you use words such as <i>feel, touch, and hold</i> ?
Concentrate	Do you become distracted by untidiness or movement?	Do you become distracted by sounds or noises?	Do you become distracted by activity around you?
Meet someone again	Do you forget names but remember faces or remember where you met?	Do you forget faces but remember names or remember what you talked about?	Do you remember best what you did together?
Read	Do you like descriptive scenes or pause to imagine the actions?	Do you enjoy dialog and conversation or hear the characters talk?	Do you prefer action stories or are not a keen reader?
Do something new at work	Do you like to see demonstrations, diagrams, slides, or posters?	Do you prefer verbal instructions or talking about it with someone else?	Do you prefer to jump right in and try it?

Adapted from: *Accelerated Learning*, Colin Rose (1987).