

# Learning Styles

**Children acquire knowledge and process information in many different ways.**

**Use activities that engage a variety of the six styles presented here so that you can effectively connect with your students and teach Biblical truths to them.**



## **Auditory Learners**

**use their voices and ears to learn.** They like to listen, discuss, repeat aloud, and sometimes sing. They have difficulty working on their own in silence for long periods of time.

### **Tips for Energizing:**

- Include small group or whole class discussion time.
- Utilize music, playing it in the background.
- Use chants, call and response, oral presentations, and opportunities to repeat new information in their own words.
- Tell jokes, stories, and riddles; have your students tell some of their own.



## **Motion Learners**

**are stimulated to learn through motion and physical activity.** They think more clearly and quickly when moving. Their minds may stagnate when forced to sit still for long periods of time.

### **Tips for Energizing:**

- Actively involve the learners through pantomime, role-plays, simulations, games, and sports.
- Vary your learning settings: go out of doors, into hallways, or to the gym.
- Avoid long periods of sitting; allow students to stand, stretch, or walk around.
- If students must sit, allow them to quietly tap their feet or fingers without disturbing others.



## **Independent Learners**

**Prefer and excel in situations where they can work alone.** They tend to be aware of their own strengths, weaknesses, interests, and abilities, but often have difficulty expressing themselves verbally. They may resist group work.

### **Tips for Energizing:**

- Give opportunities to set goals, work alone, and monitor their own progress.
- Include time for reflection and independent work projects.
- Offer choices in materials, types of projects, pace, and scope of work.
- Have students keep portfolios and evaluate their own work.
- Allow preparation time before presentations.

## Visual Learners

*depend on what they see to effectively learn.*

*They tend to process information quickly through the gate of the eye. They may be slow to process what they hear until they write it in a visual format.*



### Tips for Energizing:

- Use visuals such as pictures, charts, storyboards, posters, word banks, and diagrams.
- Use images and color (motion or static images).
- Have students look for or create patterns, design things, or perform tasks that require spatial perception.
- Make their classroom orderly and appealing.

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## Hands-on Learners

*remember best when they are actively involved and are able to touch things with their hands.*

*Working with their hands is very important to hands-on learners. Listening and watching without active involvement can produce boredom and fidgeting.*



### Tips for Energizing:

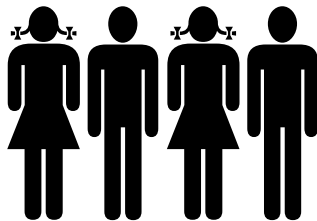
- Allow students to regularly work in three dimensions whenever possible (e.g. clay activities, handling objects, crafts, textures, etc.).
- Encourage the use of building with tools, boxes, blocks, etc.
- Encourage drawing, painting, and forms of expression that involve the hands.
- If students are old enough, let them take notes as they learn.

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## Group Learners

*enjoy group interaction, discussions, and cooperation.*

*They gain energy through contact with others. They may have difficulty sitting still or staying focused when working alone.*



### Tips for Energizing:

- Offer opportunities for collaboration, discussion, and group problem solving.
- Consider using joint projects or peer teaching.
- Make time for cooperative games.
- Structure times to empathize and identify with others' moods and feelings.
- Put these students in leadership roles when organizing games or for heading up projects.

## Identify Your Students' Preferred Learning Styles

### Ask . . .

- What types of stimuli tend to keep their attention?**
- What situations prompt them to express themselves?**
- What physical classroom arrangements help them work productively?**
- What generates the most creativity among them?**
- What style of presentation helps them remember?**
- When does their attention drift from the task at hand?**
- At what kinds of tasks do they excel?**