

## **LEADERSHIP LESSON # 89: HOW CHILDREN LEARN**

OUTLINE BY KAREN PRICKETT

Children learn best when given opportunities to take in information through various experiences. There are eight approaches to learning. Providing activities that utilize as many learning approaches during the session allows every child to learn at an optimum level.

1. **Physical** – Most children are physical learners. Beginning your session with a physical activity increases **brain** function, especially in boys, and helps children prepare to learn. Activities that involve **large** and **small** muscle movement are ideal. Physical learners enjoy touching things and moving around.
2. **Visual** – Visual learners enjoy **viewing** pictures and expressing themselves through drawing, painting, or sculpting. Utilizing teaching pictures and other **visual resources** during the Sunday School session is very beneficial for visual learners.
3. **Verbal** – Words, both **written** and **spoken**, are loved by verbal learners. They enjoy talking, reading, and writing. Provide opportunities for verbal learners to express themselves using words.
4. **Natural** – Natural learners enjoy being outside. Including nature items in activities or taking an activity outdoors is sure to please the natural learner. They enjoy **investigating** and **exploring** God's creation.
5. **Reflective** – Working **alone** quietly is one sign that a child is a reflective learner. Reflective learners enjoy journaling, scrapbooking, and other activities that provide opportunity for **reflection**.
6. **Relational** – Relational learners enjoy the company of others. They thrive in activities that involve working and playing within a **group**. For relational learners, plan group games, tasks, and projects.
7. **Musical** – You might hear a musical learner humming or singing quite often. Musical learners like **rhythm** and rewriting lyrics to songs they know. Utilize music throughout your session and allow opportunities for learners to **express** themselves through music.
8. **Logical** – Logical learners enjoy puzzles, **sequencing**, measuring, and calculating. Plan opportunities for these learners to create or finish **patterns**, sequence story pictures, or sort items related to the Bible story.

Which of the above approaches to learning do you feel apply to you as the teacher? What kinds of activities do you enjoy most? \_\_\_\_\_

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Discovering your prominent learning style will most likely reveal your prominent teaching style. It is important to step out of your comfort zone and provide activities for every child you teach in Sunday School.

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