

TIPS FOR APPEALING TO DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES

CURRICULUM WRITING: BUILDING ON WHAT YOU KNOW AND DO PRESENTED BY BETH HERRINTON-HODGE AND MELISSA WHITE, APCE 2026

Psychologist Howard Gardner teaches us that individuals learn in very different ways. Gardner describes eight *Intelligences*, or styles of learning that humans possess. It is important to include activities that appeal to each of these intelligences, or learning styles in order to reach each study participant. Gardner, Howard, *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*, New York: Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, 1983



Linguistic Intelligence - describes a person's ability to use language effectively through both writing and speaking

Musical Intelligence- describes a person's ability to perceive rhythm, melody, and pitch, and to express themselves through music

Logical - Mathematical Intelligence - describes a person's ability to think logically, solve problems systematically, and to recognize relationships and patterns

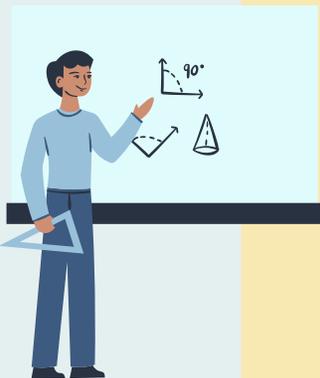
Visual - Spatial Intelligence - describes a person's ability to perceive the visual world accurately, orient themselves spatially, and graphically represent spatial information

Bodily- Kinesthetic Intelligence - describes a person's ability to move one's body, use one's body to manipulate objects, and to use one's body as a means of expression

Interpersonal Intelligence - describes a person's ability to communicate with, cooperate with, and understand other people

Intrapersonal Intelligence - describes a person's ability to recognize one's own feelings, strengths, and motivations

Naturalistic Intelligence - describes a person's ability to identify and care for the elements that make up our environment



ACTIVITIES FOR EACH LEARNING STYLE

ACTIVITIES FOR LINGUISTIC LEARNERS

- Reading scripture and Bible Study materials
- Writing prayers, poetry, letters, news articles, or short stories
- Playing word games or word associations
- Making lists
- Creating modern translations for scripture passages
- Using Bible dictionaries and commentaries

ACTIVITIES FOR MUSICAL LEARNERS

- Singing or listening to hymns
- Writing songs
- Chanting, or reciting material rhythmically

ACTIVITIES FOR LOGICAL-MATHEMATICAL LEARNERS

- Analyzing data from scripture, historical sources, timelines, or other resources
- Playing strategy games
- Asking logical questions

ACTIVITIES FOR VISUAL-SPACIAL LEARNERS

- Watching videos
- Looking at religious art or other images
- Studying Biblical maps
- Doing mazes and puzzles
- Drawing or painting

ACTIVITIES FOR BODILY-KINESTHETIC LEARNERS

- Acting out Biblical scenes or stories
- Walking a labyrinth
- Traveling the Stations of the Cross
- Answering questions by walking to stations in the room which represent each choice
- Participating in scavenger hunts
- Learning a timeline by standing along a line in the room

ACTIVITIES FOR INTERPERSONAL LEARNERS

- Discussing topics in small groups
- Collaborating on group projects
- Sharing personal stories
- Interviewing people
- Participating in ice-breakers or activities designed to get to know each other
- Working together on service projects
- Welcoming new members

ACTIVITIES FOR INTRAPERSONAL LEARNERS

- Reflecting on personal encounters
- Praying silently
- Developing individual goals
- Meditating
- Working individually on projects
- Creating a personal history, or a timeline of significant life experiences
- Writing in a journal

ACTIVITIES FOR NATURALISTIC LEARNERS

- Observing nature
- Learning or worshipping outdoors
- Working for environmental causes
- Planting a garden
- Caring for animals
- Hiking
- Going on an outdoor prayer walk
- Walking an outdoor labyrinth