

What About Learning Styles?

Each session of *Dwell* contains activities designed to engage kids and young teens using a variety of learning styles. Why? Studies have shown that people learn differently. When we lead sessions that involved a variety of learning styles we help kids connect with the story and live more deeply into it. That means more fun for kids, fewer discipline problems for teachers, and greater opportunity for life-changing ministry!

To find out which learning styles are most engaged during each activity, look for these learning style icons:



Earth Smart



Number Smart



Body Smart



Self Smart



Music Smart



People Smart



Word Smart



Picture Smart

Use one of the following learning style quizzes to help figure out which learning styles are most prevalent in your group. As you get to know the learning styles of each of the kids or young teens, all you'll need to do is glance at the icons in the Session at a Glance box and the Easy Extras section for a sense of which activities will appeal to them most.



Learning Style Quiz for Kids in (K-3)

Using a simple graph is a great way to quiz kids this age. On a chalkboard or large sheet of paper write the following headings, leaving space under each heading for kids to write their names:

- A. Be outside
- B. Sing and play music
- C. Do puzzles
- D. Play with friends
- E. Run, climb, pretend
- F. Read books and listen to stories
- G. Write in a journal, play on my own
- H. Paint, draw, color

Read the different choices out loud with your group, and invite kids to come forward and write their names under the three things they like to do the most. After everyone has had a chance to respond, invite them to return and, using a different color chalk or marker, write their name beside one activity they dislike.

To see what each category represents, compare their responses to the learning style descriptions on page 5 of your Dwell leader's guide (or the page titled, *How Do YOU Learn Best?* below). You should have a pretty good idea of how each child in your class loves to learn.

Keep a copy of their answers for future reference!



Learning Style Quiz (Grades 4-8)

Read through each of the following activities once. Then go back and give each a number, starting with 1 for your favorite thing to do, 2 for your second-favorite activity . . . all the way down to 8 for something you would not enjoy doing.

- A. _____ Nature experiments, taking care of pets, hiking in the woods, camping in a wilderness area
- B. _____ Singing, humming, writing songs, playing an instrument, listening to music
- C. _____ Solving puzzles and number problems, creating computer programs, creating charts
- D. _____ Working on a group project or game, participating in discussions
- E. _____ Acting things out, participating in sports, dancing
- F. _____ Reading, writing, spending time on e-mail, telling and listening to stories and jokes
- G. _____ Writing in a journal, thinking about things
- H. _____ Drawing, painting, or doing art projects, taking pictures, watching movies or TV

(Refer to the learning style descriptions to find out how you learn best)

How Do You Learn Best?

Learning Style Descriptions

Find the letter you rated #1 and read the description to discover your best personal learning style. The letters to which you assigned 2 and 3 are also ways you enjoy learning. Number 8 is the way it's most difficult for you to learn.



A. _____ You're **earth smart** and learn best through activities connected to living things and nature.



B. _____ You're **music smart**. When it comes to sound, music, and rhythm, you've got the beat!



C. _____ You're **number smart**. Problem solving, logic puzzles, games, patterns and graphs all add up to fun for you!



D. _____ You're **people smart** and learn best when you interact with others.



E. _____ You're **body smart**. When it comes to learning, you put your whole self in and enjoy hands-on experiences.



F. _____ You're **word smart** and love language. Listening, reading, and speaking are the ways you learn best.



G. _____ You're **self smart**. You like to think things through and are an independent learner.



H. _____ You're **picture smart** and learn best by visualizing concepts. A picture really is worth a thousand words to you!



Wait, There's More . . . a Learning Style Quiz for YOU!

The theory of Multiple Intelligences doesn't just apply to kids. *You* learn in certain ways as well, and you'll tend to lead by choosing activities that match your learning style.

Use this quiz to see which learning style you favor. Rank these items from 1 to 8, with one being the activity you enjoy most, and 8 the activity you enjoy least. Then be aware of your style as you plan your sessions. Stretch yourself to choose activities beyond your natural style in order to connect with the learning styles of the kids or young teens in your group.

- A. _____ Spend time gardening, taking care of pets, hiking in the woods, camping in a wilderness area.
- B. _____ Sing, hum, whistle, play an instrument, listen to music
- C. _____ Work on logic puzzles, create charts and time lines, balance a checkbook, develop computer programs.
- D. _____ Be with other people, work on a group project or game, participate in discussions.
- E. _____ Exercise, dance, swim, play an active game, run, take part in a drama.
- F. _____ Read, do word puzzles, write letters, spend time on e-mail, practice tongue-twisters and limericks, tell and listen to stories.
- G. _____ Spend time alone thinking or reflecting, keep a journal or diary, work on personal growth, either socially or spiritually.
- H. _____ Doodle, draw maps, paint or draw pictures, take photographs, watch movies or TV.

(Refer to the learning style descriptions to find out how you learn best)