

# Learning Styles

If you hang around your child's pre-school, you will be amazed at how very different these tiny children are. Something as simple as playdough will get a whole range of responses. One child will be attracted to the color, another the smell and another will pound the lump of playdough with his fists. One child will spend a long time creating a tiny dough fantasy world and tell you a story about it while her friend will have wandered off bored in search of a puzzle.



Research in education is turning up evidence to support what insightful parents and teachers have known for a lone time: there are many ways to be smart. Unfortunately, our school systems emphasize and reward math and language skills more than other, less quantifiable skills.

One model of human intelligence, developed by psychologist Howard Gardner, describes seven kinds of intelligence. He believes all people have abilities in each area but are naturally stronger in some areas.

Here are the seven kinds of intelligence:

*Logical—Mathematical:* loves puzzles, strategy games, testing, computers, reasoning things out.

*Musical:* sings songs, remembers tunes, mimics noises, plays music.

*Kinesthetic:* athletic, loves to move, likes touching things and people.

*Linguistic:* enjoys words, stories and writing.

*Spatial:* visual, draws, thinks in pictures, day dreams, enjoys mazes and maps.

*Interpersonal:* socially smart, enjoys friends and groups.

*Intrapersonal:* independent, strong willed, likes pursuing projects alone, reflects on own thinking.

Every has his/her own particular learning style based on her/his particular set of smarts. One is not better than another. Each needs to be honored and nurtured in its own way. A musical child, for instance, learns to count most easily with a song. So why not sign along and enjoy the music.

