

## **Discussion:**

'Hello, Charlie here! Today, I am going to discuss an interesting topic at hand, how children learn. Specifically, I will be covering the most common learning styles for children, how to discover which learning style a child favors, and how to play their learning style to their strengths.

**\*\*School bell chimes for 5 seconds then fades\*\***

## **Discussion:**

'Keep in mind that most of this information is subjective. Everyone has their own unique learning methodologies, but most of them fall into some broad categories which will be the main topics at hand.

According to non-profit, AbilityPath.org, there are a total of 4 overarching styles: Visual, Auditory, Tactile and Kinesthetic.'

I will briefly cover the fundamentals of each learning style.

'The visual style of learning includes learners who directly observe others, learning by demonstration. With this learning style, learning and thinking with pictures is most common. A student with this style may struggle to understand verbal directions, so reading written instructions provide a clearer image for the student. A downside to this learning style is too much movement or action in the environment. These can cause a great level of distraction to the visual learner.

The auditory style is self-explanatory, learning by listening. Participating in discussions and talking through things is how these learners thrive. Contrary to the visual learners, verbal directions typically provide a clearer understanding than written instructions do. These types of learners struggle to learn effectively when there is too much noise around their environment.

The tactile style learners are all about touch. Children who learn best by touch prefer activities and projects that allow them to work with their hands. To help with comprehension, these learners typically draw and doodle. This is the group that is struggling the most during this pandemic since online learning typically accommodates visual and audio, but very little tactile. We can say that online learning has brought tactile learners, 'out of touch with their potential'.

The last - and in my opinion the most essential - learning style is kinesthetic. These learners thrive by moving and doing, similar (but not the same) to the tactile learners. These learners have both a preference for feeling and touching, but also moving around. A hands-on approach will help these learners achieve their potential.

The greatest downfall of these learners are elongated periods of time in one place, they grow restless and impatient. ‘

**\*\*School bell chimes for 5 seconds then fades\*\***

### **Discussion:**

‘As children grow, they will begin to discover themselves and their learning styles. However, there are simple ways a parent or teacher can learn with the student, by paying close attention and asking themselves specific questions, the answer may be right in front of them.

A few observations that can be made are as follows’

‘ Does the child... :

1. prefer toys that are quiet or toys that move a lot?
2. enjoy reading books or drawing pictures?  
like to see how things are done or be told how they are done?
3. enjoy physical activity?
4. drawn to numbers and patterns?

These questions can distinguish which learning style a child is, and help the child play that to their advantage.

Once a learning style has been assigned to a student, a balance must be considered. According to Hill School in Pennsylvania, “while a student may show strong signs of a specific learning style, maintaining a multi-sensory curriculum is key to building a versatile and capable learner.”

For example, a person will never be able to properly maneuver a vehicle if he cannot: SEE the vehicle, MOVE to the vehicle, FEEL the components of the vehicle, and HEAR that the vehicle has been turned on. The same applies to learning in school.

**\*\*Sounds of a vehicle starting and driving into distance\*\***

We will cover the topic of ‘leveraging learning styles using technology’ in the next podcast.

**\*\*End podcast 1\*\***

## **\*\*Begin podcast 2\*\***

### **Discussion:**

Welcome back to the podcast, for the next few minutes I am going to be discussing the use of technology to leverage learning styles.

To build on each learners style, technology is the obvious answer. The Cognition and Technology Group at Vanderbilt states, "Several groups have reviewed the literature on technology and learning and concluded that it has great potential to enhance the student achievement and teacher learning, but only if it is used appropriately". What they mean is, technology will be creating drastic change in the coming decades for different learning styles, but with every change, there are pros and cons. In EarthEd, a book about rethinking education on a changing planet, the World Watch Institute discusses one of the most evident overreaches of technology present today, advertising, stating "the minimal ad regulation on children's television do not apply to programming that kids consume on the Internet or mobile devices.":

'While advertising on television towards children is regulated, many internet services reap the benefits of a highly unregulated environment. Popular sites such as YouTube, which teachers use to provide content, apply their ad-based business model to people of all ages, without considering the effects of the advertisements on their users, particularly children. Furthermore, advertisements are a detriment to nearly every learning style, since they are designed to attract the attention of the masses, or can be specifically targeted for a certain audience, one never knows what will show until they it is being shown, and by then, their attention has been diverted.

Technology is paving the way in many areas of life, and it's not leaving education behind. From wooden pencils to Apple Pencils, and from spiral notebooks to notebook app, the way we stay on top of our education is getting far easier with all the technological advancements that we have and are before us. Children are reaping all the benefits from this. They are at the forefront of these advancements, using these new instruments to learn faster, easier, and simpler than ever before.

Websites like Khan Academy and LinkedIn Learning can help the visual and auditory learners grasp information quickly and effortlessly; while softwares such as Autocad, and Inventor can help the lower budget tactile learners make and design real things by starting on a computer. Furthermore the development of portable computers such as iPads make learning on-the-go far more feasible for kinesthetic learners. In short, now more than ever, most students have what they need to learn at their fingertips, as long as they have a device connected to the internet. As referenced in EarthEd, "The goal is to enable students to be self-directed, independent learners that

are capable of managing their own learning”. Technological advancements in education is what is creating the opportunity to reach this goal.

As the learning styles of students become more integrated into technologies, students will have an easier time learning more challenging subjects, also learning faster and more efficiently. It is only a matter of time before we have ‘instant-learning’ devices to help us solve problems faster than ever... or maybe we already do.’

**\*Dun Dun Dunnnnnnnnn sound\***

#### Sources:

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