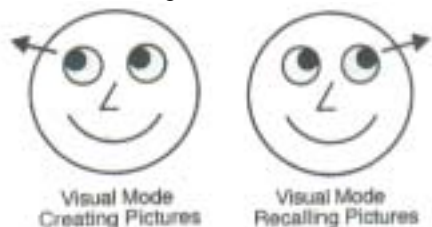


Learning Styles for Children K- 2nd Grade

How Your Child Learns

When children think about or process information, they use one or a combination of three general learning styles: (1) Visual, (2) Auditory, and (3) Kinesthetic. With each style, the direction that a child moves his/her eyes can help you understand what type of information your child is learning or retrieving. Let's look at these 3 major learning styles in more detail.

Visual Learning Style – Around 40% of elementary students are visual, in that they remember what they see or read. These children learn by watching demonstrations. They may stare, doodle, look around, and focus on details of pictures or objects. Visual learners will see or create pictures in their minds and these are their eye movements:



Auditory Learning Style – Auditory elementary school children can remember about 75% of what they hear during a 40-50 minute time period. These children learn well through verbal instructions from others. They may hum or talk to themselves or others more often, favor music, and enjoy listening but can't wait to talk. These children focus on what they hear or their internal dialogue and their eye movements will look like this:



Kinesthetic Learning Style – Elementary children with this learning style remember new and difficult material when they participate in whole-body activities and real-life experiences. Much of the time these children will fidget and find reasons to move, manipulate objects or material, use gestures when speaking and they don't listen very well. This style involves internal feelings like emotions and external feelings such as touch. Their eye movements will be more down and to their right as shown here:



A child's preference of learning style is not always the most efficient method of learning. The good news is that children (and adults) can learn how to learn differently. The best way to discover a child's thinking pattern is to observe the child in a real life, no stress situation. **The information listed above is general and may not describe every learner. Each child is unique and may display a combination of styles.**

Sources:

- Cleveland, B. F. (1987). *Master teaching techniques* (4th ed.). Lawrenceville, GA: The Connecting Link.
- Dunn, R., & Dunn, K. (1992). *Teaching elementary students through their individual learning styles*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Jensen, E. (1996). *Brain-based learning*. Del Mar, CA: Turning Point.
- Nagel, C. V., Reese, M., Reese, E. J., & Siudzinski, R. (1985). *Mega teaching and learning*. Portland, OR: Metamorphous.