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ESOL Insights



Greetings from Halla Jmourko, ESOL Teacher Coach

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English Language Learners and Multiple Intelligences

What are the 8 Intelligences?

- ▣ **Bodily/Kinesthetic-**
the mover
- ▣ **Intrapersonal-**
the loner
- ▣ **Interpersonal-**
the socializer
- ▣ **Linguistic-**
the word player
- ▣ **Logical/Mathematical-**
the questioner
- ▣ **Musical-**
the music lover
- ▣ **Visual/Spatial-**
the visualizer
- ▣ **Naturalist-**
the nature lover

Gardner, 1999

Gardner's multiple intelligences theory (1985) proposes different intelligence capacities that result in many different ways of knowing, understanding, and learning about our world. Everyone learns in different ways. Knowing how they learn and how to build on their strengths, helps English language learners (ELLs) to be more confident and explore the new language in a variety of ways in order to improve their skills. It also helps them to learn more effectively in other areas of their lives as they adjust to a new cultural environment.

Applying Multiple Intelligences Theory, Mary Ann Christison, 1998

"It is important for teachers to recognize that learners are different and therefore may need different types of classroom activities and techniques in order to learn. Only in doing so can teachers fully encourage their learners to try harder and at the same time make the learning environment as meaningful and enjoyable as possible for all students." – R. Palmberg

Integrating Multiple Intelligences into Instruction

Students are likely to become more engaged in learning as they use learning modes that match their intelligence strengths. Students' increased engagement and success in learning stimulate teachers to raise their expectations, initiating a powerful expectation: a response cycle that can lead to greater achievement levels for all.

Teachers who use multiple intelligences theories strive to present subject matter in ways that use movement, music, the visual arts, cooperative learning, and self-reflection.

- ### Key Points for Educators:
1. Each student possesses all 8 intelligences.
 2. Intelligences can be developed.
 3. Intelligences work together in complex ways.
 4. There are many ways to be intelligent.

Armstrong, 2003

- Consider your teaching and learning styles: conduct a professional audit of your teaching style; examine the activities you typically include in your lessons. Determine how to enhance your lessons while engaging the intelligences.
- Survey students to determine their intelligence strengths; this helps them to be self-advocates in their learning.
- Develop different assessment techniques that address the 8 intelligences.
- Enrich your classroom environment with manipulatives, art supplies, musical instruments, and other items to engage all intelligences.
- Provide students with self-directed learning opportunities and independent project work so that they may pursue their interests and abilities.
- Provide opportunities for students to enhance their strengths and mitigate their weaknesses.