



# PERSONAL PREFERENCES IN LEARNING AND WORK

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# DYSLEXIA AND LEARNING STYLE

- **Dyslexia is not a disease that can be cured;**
- **Dyslexia means different way of thinking;**
- **Dyslexia is not just difficulties with reading and writing but affects all the aspects of individual's life;**
- **Dyslexia is a life-long condition, although the symptoms may change with the time;**
- **Dyslexia demonstrates itself mainly in the first school years;**
- **Difficulties, associated with dyslexia are not a result of individual's development, or a result of sensory deficits;**
- **Dyslexia doesn't affect individual's intellectual potential;**
- **Because of the specifics of dyslexia it is especially important the style of teaching to match the preferable learning style of dyslexic individual;**
- **Dyslexia isn't equivalent with being a successful professional, but it doesn't either preclude completing studies at the university or gaining a prestigious position in management. Therefore dyslexics shouldn't be considered to be people with learning difficulties, but the ones who have different abilities and learning styles.**

# LEARNING STYLE - DEFINITION

There are a lot of definitions of Learning Style. These include:

➤ Learning Style consists of distinctive, observable behaviours that provide clues to the functioning of people's minds and how they relate to the world. **Anthony F. Gregorc (1979)**

➤ Learning Style describes students in terms of those educational conditions under which they are most likely to learn and essentially describes the amount of structure individuals require. **David E. Hunt (1981)**

➤ Learning Style is the product of the organization of a group of information processing activities that individuals prefer to engage in when confronted with a learning task. **Ronald R. Schmeck (1988)**

Learning style refers to the characteristics students bring to situations that influence how they learn. There are several possible dimensions to learning style.

People are different, and each of us learns differently. The very same learning conditions, guidance and instructions that can be efficient for one person can cause problems for another.

# LEARNING STYLE - CHARACTERISTICS

Learning style is not a single concept, but consists of related elements, that are called characteristics of the learning style.

These characteristics could be divided into five groups:

- Environmental - These include light, sound, temperature and design.
- Emotional - These include motivation, persistence, responsibility and organisational skills.
- Physiological - These include the time of the day when one's learning is likely to be more effective; some individuals prefer to move around while learning and to have frequent "breaks" while others can sit and work for a long time without breaks.
- Sociological - Some students prefer to study by themselves while others achieve better results when they learn with a friend or colleague. Some students require a lot more guidance than others.
- Psychological - These include personal characteristics such as abilities, motivation, temperament, thinking, etc.

# LEARNING STYLE – CHANNELS OF PERCEPTION

- **Visual** - Visual learners tend to think in pictures. So while reading they usually create a mental picture of what is described in the text.
- **Auditory** - Auditory learners learn best by hearing information. They may have difficulties to understand a text if they read it, but if they listen to it they will be able to reproduce the meaning in details.
- **Kinaesthetic** - Kinaesthetic learners learn best through touch, movement, imitations, and other physical activities. They remember best by writing or physically manipulating the information.

# LEARNING STYLE – BRAIN FUNCTIONING

- **Global learner** sees the big picture or overall view. Global learners hear new information by listening to the "gist" of what is being communicated, quickly getting the main idea or topic. Remembering the details may be somewhat difficult. In following directions the global learner listens for "what is supposed to be done", not necessarily "how to do it".
- **Analytical learner** focuses on the parts that make up the big picture. He hears new information and tends to listen for specific details. Getting the overall concept that the details describe may sometimes be difficult for the analytical learner.

# LEARNING PREFERENCES - TEACHING STYLE

- Learning styles group common ways that people learn. Everyone has a mix of learning styles.
- Everyone has their own style, even the teachers. They usually use this style everywhere, since this is a characteristic of their nervous system, the typical way of information processing of their brains.
- The excellence of the best teachers does not consist in having vast knowledge, but in being able to deliver knowledge in a number of ways and can flexibly adapt to their students' learning styles.
- Teaching styles are repeated individual and peculiar realization of teaching due to the characteristics of the personality of the teacher, his training, educational philosophy, and teaching experience.
- The best teaching method is to involve the use of more of the child's senses, especially the use of touch and movement (kinesthetic). This will give the child's brain tactile and kinesthetic memories to hang on to, as well as the visual and auditory ones.

# AFTER SCHOOL

- **Difficulties, caused by dyslexia, will get more serious with time unless the individual works hard to overcome them, and develops his self-control ability**
- **It could seem difficult to believe that people with dyslexia have talents and skills, if we focus only on the definition of specific learning difficulties. But individual's life doesn't finish with school and the success depends on many other functions that dyslexic people may have developed well.**
- **Some of the strengths of dyslexic individual that could be very useful in their "after school" life are:**
  - ❖ **Global view at the problems – this way of thinking may lead to more effective problem solving;**
  - ❖ **Visual-spatial learning style – could be used in areas like Mathematics, Physics, Engineering;**
  - ❖ **Creative thinking – this could be very useful to build a successful career in architecture, design, arts and crafts.**
- **If dyslexic individuals from very early age have used to systematic and hard work and if they have learnt how to learn as children, then they will be able to use these skills as adults as well.**

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!**

