

Knowledge of multiple intelligences: a very useful tool for the work of a teacher

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Abstract

This article addresses the eight different types of intelligences that exist: **the linguistic, the logical mathematical, the visual spatial, the musical, the body language, the interpersonal, the intrapersonal, the naturalistic and the emotional intelligences.** The article refers to the different learning styles which are associated with different types of intelligence. It analyzes how people can find their strengths and how teachers can use the opportunity to apply the various types of intelligence in their classrooms. It also mentions the importance of observing the students and taking notes on how they react to different activities, what skills they are really good at and the activities they prefer. Those who are interested in the subject have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the kind of learning and the activities associated. This study is aimed to identify the different types of intelligences that exist and refer the types of activities in which the learning subjects are well developed.

Palabras clave: Inteligencia múltiple- estilos de aprendizaje- actividades eficientes

El conocimiento de la inteligencia Múltiple, una herramienta muy útil en el trabajo del maestro

Resumen

Este artículo está relacionado con los diferentes tipos de inteligencias que existen, ellas son ocho: **La inteligencia lingüística, la lógico-matemática, la visual espacial, la musical, la de expresión corporal, la interpersonal, la intrapersonal, la naturalística y la emocional.** Se hace referencia en el artículo a los diferentes estilos de aprendizaje, los cuales están asociados a los diferentes tipos de inteligencia, cómo las personas pueden encontrar sus fortalezas, cómo los profesores pueden aprovechar la oportunidad para aplicar los diversos tipos de inteligencia en el aula; se hace alusión a la importancia de observar al estudiante y tomar notas sobre cómo ellos reaccionan a la diversas actividades, en qué habilidades son buenos realmente, y las actividades que ellos prefieren desarrollar, aquellos quienes estén

I El trabajo proviene de la investigación: Propuesta de estrategia para el desarrollo de la enseñanza reflexiva en lengua inglesa para estudiantes de ciencias médicas.

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interesados en el asunto tienen la oportunidad de aprender sobre la relación o el vínculo existente entre el tipo de aprendizaje y las actividades asociadas a ellos. Los objetivos de este trabajo son: identificar los diversos tipos de inteligencias que existen y referir los tipos de actividades en las cuales los sujetos que aprenden se desarrollan bien.

Keywords: multiple intelligence - styles of learning - efficient activities

Introduction

Multiple intelligence

Have you ever thought about why your students react in different ways to the activities you do in the class? Or even why different groups react differently to the same activity? Why do some students really enjoy working in groups while others are much more productive working alone? Why do some learners draw pictures in their vocabulary books while others seem to need to just hear a word to be able to use it themselves? Well all these questions are related to the type of intelligence the students have, then they will develop their skills taking into account their intelligence. It is very important to considerate the emotional intelligence when the students face different activities in the classroom.

- Types of intelligence
- Finding your strengths
- In the classroom
- Linking learners to activity types
- Conclusion

Types of intelligence

American psychologist, Howard Gardner developed a theory of Multiple Intelligences (1983) which can go some way towards explaining different learner styles. According to Gardner there are eight different types of intelligences. The eight intelligences are:

- **Linguistic** - The word player
- **Logical / Mathematical** - The questioner
- **Visual / Spatial** - The visualiser

- **Musical** - The music lover
- **Bodily / Kinaesthetic** - The mover
- **Interpersonal** - The socialiser
- **Intrapersonal** - The loner
- **Naturalistic** - The nature lover (added by Gardner at a later date)
- **Emotional**. control emotions when doing activities.

Finding your strengths

Everyone has some of each of all the intelligences, but in different people one (or more) is more pronounced. There are questionnaires that help you to work out which of the intelligences is the most prominent one.

- If you are interested to find out your own there are several websites and you or your students can do the test online. In my opinion, one of the best ones is: <http://www2.bgfl.org/bgfl2/custom/resources>

The test takes five minutes to complete and then provides you with a pie chart to show how your intelligence types are distributed.

In the classroom

Now you may be wondering what all this has got to do with your classes, well, although not impossible, it would be quite a real undertaking to give all your students a test to see which of the intelligences is most prominent, and then tailor make each of your classes to suit every individual student!

- If you want to go some way towards achieving this and it is a viable option for you there are some examples of tests in Jane Revell and Susan Norman's books 'In your hands' and 'Handing Over' (Saffire press).
- If time, or other factors make it impossible to do individual tests for you students, you could just try to make sure that you vary the tasks and use a range of activities so that you touch upon all the types of intelligences now and again.

- By observing your students and making notes on how they react to different activities you may well discover, for example, that you have a class with a majority of visual learners so you may try to use more flash cards or improve your board work.

Development

Linking learners to activity types below is a table of learner types and some suggested activities for each type. It is adapted from Jeremy Harmer's book *The Practice of English Language Teaching* but was originally taken from 'How to use Gardner's intelligences in a class program' by M Loon for the University of Canberra.

Learner type	Is good at	Learns best by	Activities
Linguistic	Reading, writing and stories	Saying, hearing and seeing words	Memory games Trivia quizzes Stories.
Logical / mathematical	Solving puzzles, exploring patterns, reasoning and logic	Asking questions, categorising and working with patterns	Puzzles Problem solving.
Visual / Spatial	Drawing, building, arts and crafts	Visualising, using the mind's eye	Flashcards, shapes Colours Pictures Drawing Project work.
Musical	Singing, listening to music and playing instruments	Using rhythm, with music on	Using songs, ballads Chants Drilling.
Bodily / Kinaesthetic	Moving around, touching things and body language	Moving, touching and doing	TPR activities Action songs Running dictations Miming Realia.
Interpersonal	Mixing with others, leading groups, understanding others and mediating	Co-operating, working in groups and sharing	Mingle activities Group work, pair work Debates Discussions.
Intrapersonal	Working alone and pursuing own interests	Working alone	Working individually on personalised projects
Naturalistic	Nature	Working outside and observing nature	Environmental projects.

Conclusion

Although teachers can't do this all the time with all the students in the classroom, it's just good to bear in mind that there are many different ways of learning.

- If you try an activity with one group and it falls flat, it may well be worth trying it again as it may work really well with another set of students.
- If you can identify the loner of the class or the one who is always up and out of his seat, try and put activities into your lesson plan that you think will suit them from time to time.
- Finding out my own intelligence type has helped me to better understand how I learn. I now sit in my class and as we get told to copy lists of random vocabulary off the board I think to myself, 'This won't work for me - I don't learn like this. I need to see some pictures of these things, I'm a visual learner!'

Multiple intelligences: What are you good at?

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