

What kind of learner is your child?

When your child gets a constructions toy, do they:

- A** Look at the illustrations?
- B** Ask for help?
- C** Try and work it out on their own?

When they're describing a new friend to you, do they:

- A** Describe how they look?
- B** Tell you their name?
- C** Tell you what game they played together?

Out of the following three activities, which one would your child be more likely to choose:

- A** Do some painting or colouring?
- B** Listen to you read a story?
- C** Play with their toys?

When you're going on a long journey would your child prefer to:

- A** Read or play I Spy games?
- B** Talk or listen to music?
- C** Play a computer game or do some colouring?

When your child first learnt to ride a bike did they:

- A** Watch how other people ride bikes and try to imitate them?
- B** Ask you for advice and listen closely to your instructions?
- C** Just get on the bike and learn by trial and error?

When they're learning something new, do they:

- A** Write everything down to better help them remember?
- B** Are quick to memorise what is being said without the need to write anything down?
- C** Like to be actively involved in the learning experience or they tune out?

What type of puzzle is your child best at:

- A** Jigsaw puzzles?
- B** Word game?
- C** Hand held puzzles that are solved through manipulation?

When your child needs help with homework, do they prefer to:

- A** Consult a book?
- B** Ask for help?
- C** Try to work it out alone before asking for help?

If your child could do any one of these physical activities, which would they prefer:

- A** Going for a walk in the park and taking photos of the different plants and wildlife?
- B** Playing a musical instrument or dancing to music?
- C** Building a pram or go-cart?

If your child is old enough, would they prefer to contact friends via:

- A** Email or text?
- B** Telephone?
- C** Meet them face to face?

If your child has to remember to do something, do they:

- A** Write it down?
- B** Repeat it over and over until they remember it?
- C** Try to do it as soon as possible?

When your child is upset about something, do they tend to:

- A** Replay events in their mind?
- B** Talk to you or their friends about it?
- C** Slam doors and throw things?

If your child has the choice, would they prefer to:

- A** Watch TV?
- B** Talk to a friend?
- C** Run around outside?

If your child has a hobby, do they prefer to:

- A** Read up on their area of interest and make a scrapbook?
- B** Join a club with like-minded children?
- C** Go out and actively pursue their interest?

If your answers were mostly:

- A** Your child is a **VISUAL** learner
- B** Your child is an **AUDITORY** learner
- C** Your child is a **TACTILE** learner

NB: At an early age, most children vary between the different learning styles depending on the activity.

What Kind of Learner Are You? - The Results

If you answered mostly A's then your child is a VISUAL LEARNER.

Your child learns best through their eyes. They find it easiest to take things in when reading, looking at diagrams and charts and watching videos. Searching on the internet is also a great way for your child to learn. He/she is a visuo-spatial learner and will find it best working alone.

If you answered mostly B's then your child is an AUDITORY LEARNER.

Your child finds listening, talking and interacting the easiest way to learn. Your child will question what he/she is unsure of to find answers. This type of learner works well as part of a group, in discussions and reading aloud.

If you answered mostly C's then your child is a TACTILE LEARNER.

Your child is a very hands on and practical learner. Your child learns best through imitation, team work and role playing. He/she builds on their learning through visuo-motor feedback and getting straight into the job and figuring it out as they go along.

Dr Janine Spencer says: "Effective learning means choosing the best method for each situation. Some people are attentive readers and watchers, some people are great listeners and talkers, while others like to practice themselves. But everyone benefits from developing all these skills for different activities."

Janine's Top Ten 'Learning' Tips

1. Understand and embrace technology, do not alienate yourself from it.
2. Accept that your children's lives are very different from your own childhood - it's something your own parents had to do.
3. Even if your child acts older than you did at a particular age, don't expect too much of them. They still develop at the same rate emotionally as children always have.

4. It can be hard finding time to eat as a family, especially with so many people working odd hours. However, a picnic at the weekend or a leisurely breakfast during holiday times will help family bonding.
5. Spending quality time with children doesn't have to be about sitting down and playing a game. Why not let your child help you with the cooking. It's a great opportunity for teaching number, volume and science concepts.
6. There are many ways to instil a love of learning in your child. Here are a few tips:
 - a. Read to your child, even before they understand what the words mean.
 - b. Talk to your child about the world around them.
 - c. Go for a walk and help your child learn about nature.
 - d. Ask questions and encourage your child to ask questions.
 - e. Try to make learning fun using games and the internet.
7. Parents often feel pressure to make sure every moment they spend with their child is 'quality time'. Your child just wants to be with you and to have your attention.
8. Parents often worry that their child isn't doing as well as other children. But that's because other parents, consciously or not, will only talk about their children's achievements. Schools have a far more balanced picture and will let you know if your child needs any additional help.
9. Parents shouldn't be afraid to make sure that their children's internet use is age appropriate. It's not like reading their diary, it's about keeping them safe.
10. Children are great at picking up new tech skills, but it's important to remember that these tech skills can also help them learn traditional skills in new ways.

