

Characteristics of the Right-Brain Dominant Learner



Right-Brain Dominant Children are Often Kinesthetic Learners

- Learn best through movement
- Need to move while processing new information, but with very little external stimulation that would be a distraction
- Must be able to see, hear, move, and/or verbalize the whole context before learning details
- Need to physically process what they are learning

Right-Brain Dominant Children are Visual Learners

- Will focus on the whole picture
- Might have difficulty breaking down the whole picture into a sequence of words in order to express what they mean (images are global while speech is linear and sequential)
- Think in pictures, not in words
- Exhibits good memory for images and whole concepts
- Might need to close their eyes or turn their head away in order to process what they learning

Right-Brain Dominant Learners & the Structure of Lessons

- Need to see the whole/global view in order to learn
- Prefer not to have step-by-step directions
- Works best when understanding the desired end product, and intuitively does what is appropriate
- Learns best with 3D, hands-on work
- Benefits from seeing examples of what is required
- Metaphors and other associations help when learning

Right-Brain Dominant Learners & Emotion

- Need to have relevance to their lives
- Are often highly intuitive
- Need quiet time alone, especially when processing new information
- Quickly grasps the main idea
- Picks up on the intention and emotion of the teacher while learning

Challenges Right-Brain Dominant Learners May Face

- Might have trouble explaining how they arrived at an answer once they have solved it (i.e., math problems when directed to show their work)
- Might reverse or transpose letters or numbers
- Although they might quickly grasp the main idea, they may have great difficulty in communicating the details in a linear way (logical sequence of steps)
- May have difficulty with penmanship
- May have difficulty listening to a lesson unless they are able to look away or shut their eyes
- Might have difficulty with fine motor activities
- May have a difficult time processing new learning and committing it to memory unless they have time to reflect without visual or verbal stimulation

Right-Brain Dominant Learners Under Stress

- May exhibit clumsy movements
- May “freeze” or may become emotional
- Seeing and hearing details may become difficult
- May have difficulty communicating verbally
- May have difficulty listening and remembering
- Communication between hemispheres of the brain may shut down