

The brain is separated into two hemispheres, the left and right brain. They control different bodily and mental functions. While the right brain absorbs new information in chunks, the left brain sifts and sorts the information in an organized fashion. Some of their other characteristics are as follows:


The right brain is more holistic and controls
Imagination and intuition
Artistic ability
Divergent thinking
(creative, artistic approach, throw out the rules)


The left brain is more analytical and controls
Analytical thinking
Mathematics
Word skills
Convergent thinking
(systematic approach, play by the rules)

Based on 20 years of experience and observation,

Dr. Lauren Bradley, a speech-language pathologist, has come to the conclusion that children use distinctive learning styles. Her book, *How to Maximize Your Child's Learning Ability*, details her findings:

- the way a child learns in his infancy influences his ability to socialize, and to perform athletically and academically later in life
- every child has dominant ways of absorbing information...

 ...some learn best through visual stimulation...

 ...some are more responsive to sound and language...

 ...and some learn more through touch and motion.



The following is a guide to three learning styles.

? Is he a LOOKER?

When he wishes to express himself, he...

- points to what he wants
- responds with gestures, not words
- plays very quietly
- likes to observe goings on, rather than participate
- didn't babble until late in his first year

When he plays, he...

- likes dangling toys, color and motion
- is visually alert
- looks at picture books

When he moves about, he...

- watches his hands while playing
- reached for objects before 5 months of age
- likes to explore small objects with his hands
- likes to pick up and place small pieces, and enjoys puzzles and shape sorters

When he is fussy, he...

- is quieted by the sight of a familiar face
- is calmed by a familiar toy
- is easily distracted by a change of scenery

CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY

? Is he a LISTENER?

When he wishes to express himself, he...

- babbled early and frequently
- said his first words before age one
- follows directions easily
- tries to imitate words spoken by others
- uses inflection when vocalizing

When he plays, he...

- likes rattles and noisemakers
- likes rhymes, songs and finger plays
- seems to "eavesdrop" on conversations
- babbles to his toys

When he moves about, he...

- was slow to sit up, and more interested in babbling
- is consumed by talking, not walking
- prefers riding toys that make noise
- uses toys mainly to create sounds

When he is fussy, he...

- is quieted by the sound of a familiar voice
- is calmed by music
- is easily distracted by a xylophone or a piano

CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY

? Is he a MOVER?

When he wishes to express himself, he...

- uses gestures rather than words
- is prone to tantrums
- shakes his head to indicate "no"
- grabs at objects and toys impulsively
- rarely babbles at all

When he plays, he...

- likes being bounced and tickled
- likes to be rocked, cuddled and held
- often kicks at his crib mobile
- enjoys the swing and bike rides

When he moves about, he...

- sat without support before six months of age
- crawled before eight months and walked before age one
- is very active
- used riding toys before ten months of age

When he is fussy, he...

- is quieted by being picked up
- is calmed by a being held and rocked
- is easily distracted by a massage or car ride

CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY

How does my child learn?



Looking, or visual learning, involves responding to visual stimulation, like motion, color, shape and size.



Listening, or auditory learning, are more has to do with sounds and spoken words.



Moving, or tactile and kinesthetic learning, happens through touch and movement.

ACTION ITEMS

Tips for maximizing learning

Lookers

From birth to 12 months

Give your visually-oriented baby lots of interesting things to look at and watch. Hang mobiles, wear bright colors, flip through the pages of colorful picture books or photo albums, make faces in front of a mirror or place him where he can observe family activities.

From 13 months to 3 years

Let your child play with crayons, finger paint, Play-Doh™ and different colored paper. She also will enjoy puzzles or other games that involve matching shapes and sizes. In conversation, whether walking down the street or looking at a magazine, point to different objects and ask her to name them.

Listeners

From birth to 12 months

Focus on offering opportunities for listening, such as playing gentle music, talking to your baby, "conversing" with her by imitating her sounds, laughing and by providing her with rattles and other noise-making toys.

From 13 months to 3 years

Converse with your child in adult language, rather than baby talk, so his skills develop. Ask him questions, read him stories and get him into a playgroup where he can talk to and make friends with other children. Also, teach him songs like the ABCs and nursery rhymes and give him children's cassette tapes for listening and singing along.

Movers

From birth to 12 months

Incorporate touch and chances to use, move and manipulate objects. Massage, bathing, and cuddling provide good opportunities for touch. Games like peek-a-boo and mobiles with rings or other pieces for your baby to reach for will give her the opportunity for movement.

From 13 months to 3 years

Take your child to the playground, the beach or the swimming pool. Give him a tricycle to ride, sand to dig in or a soft ball to kick, throw or catch. Touch is also important, so keep him close with hugs, high-fives, and tickling.