

Learning Styles of Children

Choose the lessons and activities that best suit your group by understanding and identifying the learning styles of the children in your care. Although some kids may display dominant styles, they remain flexible in their learning. Being familiar with all the learning styles allows their developing minds to adapt to the various teaching methods they will encounter in the future. Incorporating multiple learning styles will also allow you to engage a group of children who may have differing dominant learning styles. The learning styles include visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile.

The visual learning style is generally evident among children who excel at visual activities, enjoy books with illustrations, and are good at recognizing and recalling people, words, and places. Lessons for children with this learning style could include objects and pictures. Activities that are visually focused may incorporate art projects or use the posters and pictures that come with your missions discipleship curriculum.

The auditory learning style is generally found in children who excel at auditory activities; frequently sing, hum, or talk while doing other things; and ask a lot of questions while completing a task. These children may benefit from lessons in which they listen to a story, hear a song, or ask questions. They will also benefit from repetition within lessons. Activities that include music and dancing may also interest these children. Asking children to write new words to a popular tune can help kids remember details about Scripture verses or the work missionaries do.

The kinesthetic learning style is often observed in children who excel in physical activities, have difficulty sitting still while learning, and prefer to jump straight into a task or activity. Activities that allow children to be involved and move around may benefit their ability to focus and learn. Kinesthetic learners may enjoy races, getting up and looking for items around the room, and going on “journeys” as they learn about missions work happening across the world.

Finally, the tactile learning style is often observed in children who need to touch objects or different textures to learn. Activities that incorporate their sense of touch, such as completing a puzzle or reaching into a bag to pull out key items during story time, can be enjoyable. Adding a variety of textures to surfaces and allowing children to explore those surfaces during seated activities can also help children learn.

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