LEARNING STYLE PRINCIPLES

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Objectives

Upon completion of this power point presentation, the learner will be able to:

- Cite at least one definition of the term "learning styles"
- Delineate at least three ideas for teachers to incorporate into their use of learning styles
- Describe the key components of Kolb's Experiential Learning Model
- Describe the assessment categories included in the Dunn and Dunn Learning Styles
- Identify at least three learning styles included in Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligence
- Critique the "helpful hints" regarding the use of learning styles
- React in the discussion board to the contradictory findings regarding learning styles cited in the NPR broadcast on 08/29/11
- Discuss your learning style and its implications for your teaching

Definition

- Definition of Learning styles:
 - Kitchie: focuses on
 - ways in which, and the
 - conditions under which, learners perceive, process, store, and recall what they are attempting to learn (Kitchie, 2008, pp. 114-115).
 - Keefe: focuses on
 - the way that learners learn,
 - taking into account cognitive, affective, and physiological factors (Keefe, 1979).

Creating an Environment for Learning

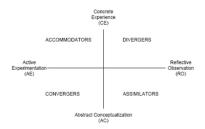
- Accepting diversity of learning styles help the teacher to:
 - create an environment for learning
 - make deliberate decisions about program/course/class design.
- Five ideas when identifying learning styles: .
- Teachers need to guard against relying on teaching methods and tools that match their own preferred learning style.
- 2. Teachers are most helpful when they assist learners in identifying and learning via their own learning style preferences.
- 3. Learners should have the opportunity to learn via their own learning style.
- 4. Learners should be encouraged to diversity their learning style
- 5. Teachers can develop specific learning activities that reinforce each learning style.

Learning Style Models and Instruments

Instruments for assessing learners.

- 1. Right-brain/left-brain and whole-brain thinking
- 2. Field-independent/field-dependent perception
- 3. <u>Dunn and Dunn Learning Styles</u> (Explained in later slides,
- 4. <u>Solomon and Felder Learning Styles Inventory</u> (A 44-item survey based upon both <u>Jung and Myers-Briggs Typology</u>)
- 5. Kolb's Experiential Learning Model (Explained in later slides)
- 6. McCarthy's 4MAT System
- 7. Gardner's Multiple Intelligences (Explained in later slides)
- 8. VARK Learning Styles

Kolb's Experiential Learning Model



(Image Source: http://knol.google.com/k/hres-3277-001-employee-training-and-development#

Dunn and Dunn Learning Styles



Gardner's Multiple Intelligences

- Gardner's (1999) theory of multiple intelligences;
 - Linguistic
 - Logical-mathematical
 - Spatial
 - Musical
 - Bodily kinesthetic
 - Interpersonal
 - InterpersonalIntrapersonal
 - Naturalistic
- Originally designed for use with children
- Can be a framework for the recognition that adults learn in different ways

Helpful Hints Regarding the Use of Learning Styles

Determining learners' styles:

- Do you prefer to
 - attend lectures or participate in group discussions
 - read or view a videotape/film
- Do you prefer that
 - a skill be demonstrated or "talk you through" a new procedure
- Do you give the learners the opportunity to tell you when an instructional strategy or medium is not working for them.
- Encourage learners to become aware of their learning styles and to expand their style ranges.

Contradictory findings regarding learning styles!

Willingham at the University of Virginia

– "we are on more equal footing than we may thing when it comes to how our brains learn"

Rohrer at the University of South Florida
_ no scientific evidence supporting learning styles

Willingham concludes that "mixing things up" boosts learners' attention

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