

Why is it essential to understand the characteristics of young learners? How can we apply this knowledge in our lessons?

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We can characterize students by different types of intelligence. Knowing these types is very important for a teacher because, in this case, the teacher can use various learning methods with students to achieve better results. Here are the 8 main types of multiple intelligences we know:

1) Spatial intelligence: This is the ability to visualize a space and imagine it from different angles, noting facets and fine details, as well as recognizing visual scenes without the presence of physical stimulus. For this kind of student, the following activities may be useful:

- Use descriptive spatial language every day
- Play tangram puzzles
- Participate in movement games
- Play chess
- Read spatial-rich books
- Build “a memory palace”
- Practice origami and paper folding

2) Linguistic intelligence involves the ability to understand and use spoken and written language. This can include expressing yourself effectively through speech or the written word, as well as showing a facility for learning foreign languages.

How can we improve linguistic intelligence?

- Reading, hearing.
- Speaking, and debating about topics we learned.
- Writing small stories, essays, articles.
- Learning different languages.

3) Intrapersonal intelligence. (Social and emotional skills, self-awareness, reflection skills)

Some students adore working in groups and helping their classmates, as teacher we must notice this and use it as a tool in our lessons: simply mix students with

better-developed communication skills with more closed and shy students. This will be helpful for both categories of students: some follow their peers and attempt to grow up in this subject, and for others, it develops their leadership skills.

4) Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence.

Kinesthetic intelligence refers to a natural understanding of how our bodies should respond in challenging physical situations. Since birth, we learn about the world through physical experiences before developing linguistic skills, etc. It's crucial to include kinesthetic activities in our lessons because students can benefit from learning through it. For example, if students are struggling to understand a historical topic, incorporating role-plays can be very effective. Or use hands-on games for math, a pantomime for reading, and describing characters.

5) Logical-mathematical intelligence involves problem-solving and reasoning skills. Students with this intelligence have the ability to use numbers correctly and enjoy experimenting, calculating, classifying, categorizing, analyzing objects, using patterns, and working with numbers.

In order to develop logical-mathematical intelligence in kids, you can:

- Encourage metacognitive awareness and talk through the thinking process with them.
- Balance learning facts and math operations with real-world problem-solving.
- Use memory or logic games, math puzzles, computer programs, hands-on projects, pattern recognition, and data analysis.



6) Naturalistic intelligence.

Naturalistic intelligence is the ability to recognize, identify, understand, and work with elements of the natural world. Students with this type of intelligence have a keen sense of observation and excel at spotting relationships and patterns in nature.

For this type of student, it is beneficial to enjoy outdoor activities, such as having lessons in the schoolyard and sitting on the grass. Additionally, it is important to learn more about different animal species and plants by exploring examples from the natural world.

7) Musical intelligence:

Understanding rhythm, pitch, melody, and other elements of music.

Learners with high musical intelligence have a deep understanding of and can express themselves through music. They can create and enjoy music, recognize different musical notes, and may think in rhythms or melodies. As teachers, we can use songs, rhythms, or chants to help students memorize material, even if it's not related to music. Simply put any sentence that students need to learn to a well-known melody and repeat it at the beginning of your lessons for a week. You will be surprised by the results.

8) Existential intelligence:

Existential intelligence is the capacity to ponder deep questions about human existence, such as the origin of life or what happens after death. People with high existential intelligence see the world from a philosophical perspective and enjoy helping others, self-care, and promoting positive values like love and truth.

Tips to develop existential intelligence in kids:

- Make connections between what is being learned and the world outside the classroom.
- Have students look at a topic from different points of view.
- Read books from other cultures and ask kids to think of stories from their own culture that are similar.
- Give kids opportunities to be a part of something bigger in their school, town, or state.

If an educator is not familiar with the characteristics of the learners they are teaching, several problems can arise:

1. The educator may not tailor their teaching methods to suit the learners' needs, resulting in less effective instruction and reduced student engagement.
2. Miscommunication. It will lead to difficulties in understanding the needs of certain student groups, making it hard to reach and motivate them to learn.
3. Students may have low motivation and participation during the lesson.
4. Behavior issues.
5. Poor Learning Outcomes