

Ahoskie Elementary School Learning Styles

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What is a learning style?

Ellis (1985) described a learning style as the more or less consistent way in which a person perceives, conceptualizes, organizes and recalls information.

Where do learning styles come from?

Your students' learning styles will be influenced by their genetic make-up, their previous learning experiences, their culture and the society they live in.

Why should teachers know about learning styles?

Sue Davidoff and Owen van den Berg (1990) suggest four steps: plan, teach / act, observe and reflect. Here are some guidelines for each step.

- Students learn better and more quickly if the teaching methods used match their preferred learning styles.
- As learning improves, so too does self esteem. This has a further positive effect on learning.
- Students who have become bored with learning may become interested once again.
- The student-teacher relationship can improve because the student is more successful and is more interested in learning.

Learning Styles

- Visual

- Use many visuals in the classroom. For example, wall displays posters, realia, flash cards, graphic organizers etc.

- Auditory

- Use audio tapes and videos, storytelling, songs, jazz chants, memorization and drills
- Allow learners to work in pairs and small groups regularly.

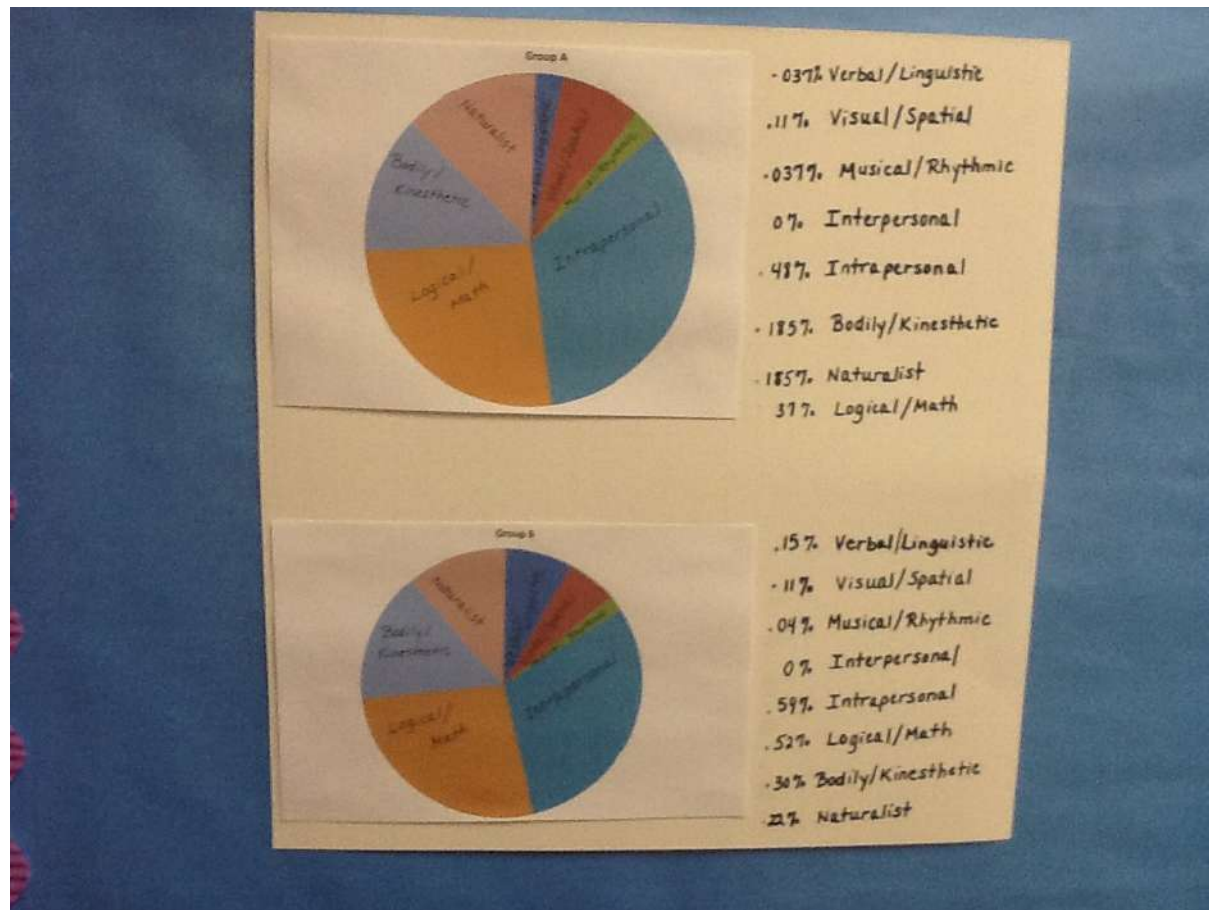
- Kinesthetic

- Use physical activities, competitions, board games, role plays etc.
- Intersperse activities which require students to sit quietly with activities that allow them to move around and be active

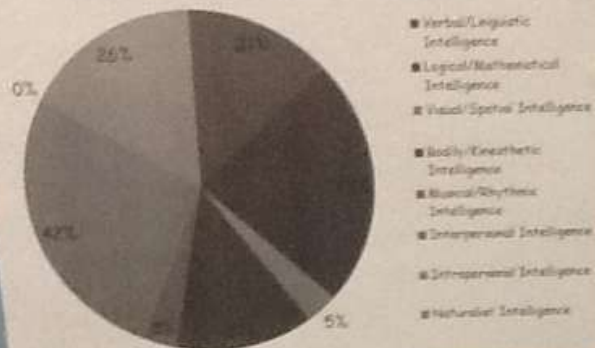
- Tactile

- Use board and card games, demonstrations, projects, role plays etc.
- Use while-listening and reading activities. For example, ask students to fill in a table while listening to a talk, or to label a diagram while reading

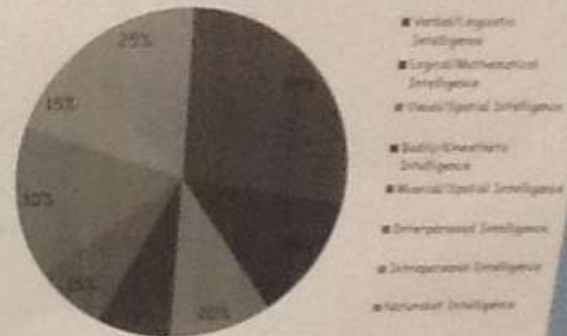
Samples of Learning Style Charts from Ahoskie Elementary School



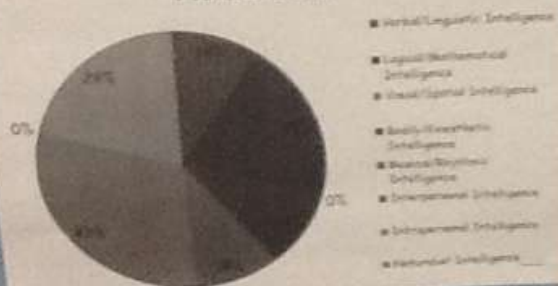
Miss Anderson's Homeroom



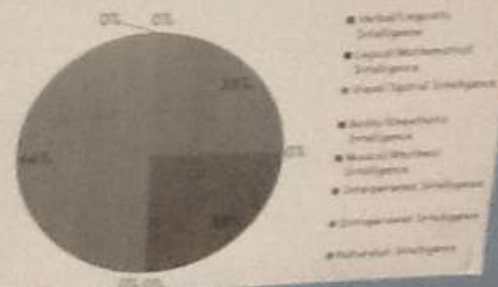
Mrs. Bowser's Homeroom



AIG from Miss Anderson's Homeroom



EC from Mrs. Bowser's Homeroom



Links to Learning Style Inventories

- <http://www.uu.edu/programs/tesl/elementaryschool/learningstylesinventory.htm>
- <http://capone.mtsu.edu/studskl/hd/learn.html>
- <http://sunburst.usd.edu/~bwjames/tut/learning-style/>