

BRAINSTORMING – LEARNING PREFERENCES

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Dr. VIMALA GRACY

Assistant Professor in Commerce Education

Dr. SNS College of Education, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

All learning is brain - based. The brain is a composite grey matter that functions as a whole, though its functions are by left and right hemispheres. The article purports to elucidate the nature of left and right brain learners in the light of 4 types of learners and the factors affecting learning.

Keywords: Rules, Left brain and Right brain, Benefits, Types of Learners

Introduction

Innovative thinking is a highly valued capability today. By working specific mental exercises as a deliberate part of your day, you can increase your ability to integrate left (creative) and right brain (logical) thinking patterns into a mix that generates more productive innovative thinking. We tend to categorize employees, and sometimes ourselves, as being either left brain or right brain is driven. But the most effective people entrepreneurs and business leader work across both world of being widely creative at one moment and then thinking in painstaking detail the next. Some famous business leaders who are known for this ability are Steve Jobs (Apple), Micky Drexler (the Gap), and Bill Gates (Microsoft). Those leaders can modulate between far - reaching visions for their companies and then down to specific design and technical details seamlessly.

Left Brain and Right Brain

The Left brain Learner	The Right Brain Learner
Puts things in order	Arranges things haphazardly
Uses language to make explanations	Explain by demonstrating

Tells events as they hear them – doesn't elaborate	Elaborates when telling events – adds a few extras to make it more interesting
It is organized	Organizes things randomly
Listens for directions	Starts without waiting for instructions
It is systematic	It is spontaneous
Responds to auditory direction	Responds to tactile input
Tells/writes stories which have a beginning, middle, and end in that order	Tells/writes stories which may be in any order.
It is acutely aware of time	It is not aware of time and is often late
It is emotionally reserved	Shows emotion easily

Four Main Types of Learners

There are four basic kinds of learners:

Visual Learner learns by seeing things, for e.g. she/he will like getting new information from books. If you have a child who is a visual learner she/he will enjoy reading and will look at instructions before beginning to use a new toy.

Auditory Learner likes to learn by listening. A child who is an auditory learner will want you to explain the rules of a game rather than read them.

Kinesthetic learner needs to learn by doing things and often has to move around, to use his/her muscles to learn. This learner remembers what she/he has experienced. The kinesthetic learner can find sitting still very difficult indeed.

Tactile learner needs to fiddle or draw to learn, she/he finds sitting and listening or concentrating without fiddling very difficult and will naturally start to play with a pen, or pick things up, start drawing pictures or writing. This kind of child is often told to sit still and stop wiggling.

Research shows that if we want someone to learn something new or difficult, it is best to let him or her learn it in the way which is more suitable to them. So, a kinesthetic learner who needs to learn the days of the week in order, should move around the room or relate each day to something they personally do on that day. The tactile learner will need something to touch. There is no right way to learn. Personal preferences that affect learning

There are Other Elements which Affect how well we Learn or Work. These are Divided into five Different Strands

Learning Environment

Whether the learner likes to work in silence or perhaps with music on some people like bright light but most children need very little light or read. Temperature is also very important. Some people need to feel very warm to be able to work well; others need cool temperatures which some people find too cold. Then there are people who like to sit at a table whilst others like to lie on the floor or on a sofa.

Feelings and Motivation

This is the emotional strand and looks at how motivated the learner is. Some people want to do well and be left to get on with their work, others need to be told that they are doing well very often and need to be encouraged to continue. Some people keep going even if they find things very difficult; others give up and need to take short breaks. Following rules is very easy for some of us, but others may break them to create their own rules. There are some learners who like to be told exactly what to do and when, whilst others like to get on with their work.

Sociological Context

In a typical classroom there will be students who want to work alone and some who prefer to work with a partner or as a part of a team. Some of these students want constant attention from the teacher whilst others want to be able to ask for help if they need it. Some of us like to stick to a regular routine and always do things the same way, while others need variety and change.

Physical Factors

The best time of day to work, hunger and physical needs are all personal all affect each of us individually. Some people like to eat or chew when they are working or drink something, while others have to take a break to do this. Some are morning people and others people who work better later in the day or at night. Some students need to move in some way in order to concentrate or have noise of some kind while others need to be still and have complete quiet.

Psychological Factors

This strand look at whether we are right or left brain learners, either interested in a global creative, holistic approach or are more analytical, logical and organised. It deals with multiple intelligences and what helps us to remember. To be able to learn best we need to understand how we, and our children learn and which conditions suit us best. There is no right way to learn, but there is a best way for each individual.

Conclusion

If you keep on doing what you have been doing, you will keep on getting what you have been getting. If you want to change what you have been getting, you will have to change what you have been doing. Life is a big equal "=" sign. To change one side of the equation, you will have to change the other. "If student performance has room for improvement, do we need to do more with the 'left brain' or should we focus on the 'right brain' or should we focus on the 'right brain'? The answer is "both..."

When it comes to how the brain actually functions, hemispheric dominance has long been considered a brain myth. However, the characteristics normally used to describe left or right brain preferences still serve as an extremely useful model for ways

to process new information. No one else process information is exactly the same way you do. But if you discover how you process information best, you can learn things more efficiently and in less time. And you can expand the strategies you use for learning and studying. When learning something new or difficult, you naturally tend to use for style you prefer. It is good to know what this learning style is so that you can respond most effectively to the material being presented. Even when the material is not presented in the way you prefer, you can use your knowledge of learning styles to adjust and be flexible, no matter whom your instructor is or what the topic might be.

References

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