



## MACHE 2009 Annual Conference Thursday Workshops

Workshop: Understanding Your Child

Speaker: Mary James

Session: Special Session Time: 1:00 pm

### I. Learning Styles

#### A. Why Do I Need to Know about Learning Styles?

1. They help us understand our child.
2. We become better parents because we are more tolerant of differences.
3. Knowing your child's style helps him succeed.

#### B. What Do I Need to Know about Learning Styles?

1. Your child may be too young to have developed a style.
2. You or your child may have a combination of styles. Usually one is dominant.

#### C. What Learning Styles Are *Not*

1. Intelligence indicators
2. Right or wrong
3. A learning modality, i.e., visual, auditory, or kinesthetic

#### D. Wiggly Willie or Wilma

1. characteristics
  - a) quick
  - b) intuitive
  - c) curious
  - d) realistic
  - e) creative
  - f) innovative
  - g) instinctive
  - h) adventurous
2. favorite subjects

- a) sports
  - b) art
  - c) contests
  - d) field trips
3. what they dislike
- a) being confined
  - b) too much structure
  - c) not having choices
  - d) long school days
4. teaching tips
- a) games and contests
  - b) experiments – anything hands-on
  - c) tapes and videos
  - d) adventure stories
  - e) computers
  - f) math manipulatives

E. Perfect Paul or Paula

1. characteristics
- a) hardworking
  - b) conventional
  - c) accurate
  - d) stable
  - e) dependable
  - f) consistent
  - g) factual
  - h) organized
2. favorite subjects
- a) math
  - b) spelling

- c) geography
  - d) notebooks and collections
  - e) timelines
  - f) history
3. what they dislike
- a) changes of schedule
  - b) creativity
  - c) unclear expectations
  - d) disorganized learning environment
4. teaching tips
- a) clear assignments and expectations
  - b) samples and examples for what you want
  - c) drill and memorization
  - d) timelines help them process historical info

F. Competent Carl or Carla

1. characteristics
- a) objective
  - b) knowledgeable
  - c) thorough
  - d) structured
  - e) logical
  - f) deliberate
  - g) systematic
2. favorite subjects
- a) science
  - b) math
  - c) research
  - d) complex subjects
  - e) long-term independent projects

3. what they dislike
  - a) being rushed
  - b) busy work, esp. of work previously mastered
  - c) excessive emotional interaction
4. teaching tips
  - a) computers
  - b) fill their need for information
  - c) help them satisfy their curiosity

G. Sociable Sam or Sue

1. characteristics
  - a) sensitive
  - b) compassionate
  - c) sentimental
  - d) spontaneous
  - e) perceptive
  - f) imaginative
  - g) flexible
2. favorite subjects
  - a) creative writing
  - b) literature
  - c) humanities (social studies)
  - d) performing arts
  - e) public speaking
  - f) foreign languages
3. what they dislike
  - a) detailed assignments
  - b) complex subjects
  - c) not being allowed creativity and flexibility
  - d) being left to themselves

4. teaching tips
  - a) unit studies
  - b) don't be more detailed than you have to be
  - c) small groups
  - d) historical fiction and biographies to teach history

## II. Learning Modalities

A. Visual

B. Auditory

C. Kinesthetic/Tactile

## III. Five Love Languages

A. Love Language #1: Words of Affirmation

B. Love Language #2: Quality Time

C. Love Language #3: Receiving Gifts

D. Love Language #4: Acts of Service

E. Love Language #5: Physical Touch

## IV. Resources

A. *The Way They Learn and How Your Child Learns and Succeeds*, Cynthia Tobias

B. *Temperaments and Learning Styles*, Keith Golay

C. *In Their Own Way: Discovering and Encouraging Your Child's Personal Learning Style*, Thomas Armstrong

D. *Please Understand Me*, David Keirse and Marilyn Bates

E. *You Can Teach Your Child Successfully*, Ruth Beechick

F. *Better Late than Early*, Raymond and Dorothy Moore

G. *100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum*, Cathy Duffy

Learning Styles		
Cathy Duffy	Cynthia Tobias	Keith Golay
Wiggly Willy/Wilma	Concrete Random (CR)	Actual-Spontaneous
Perfect Paul/Paula	Concrete Sequential (CS)	Actual-Routine
Competent Carl/Carla	Abstract Sequential (AS)	Conceptual-Specific
Sociable Sam/Sue	Abstract Random (AR)	Conceptual-Global

NOTE: Smoothing the Way includes books by various authors on our resource list. This chart compares the names used by the different authors listed above. STW uses the names of the Cathy Duffy model in our handout because we feel these names are the simplest to understand and remember; however, all notes on learning styles were written by Smoothing the Way founders and include information gleaned from studying all three learning style models.

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