



Pathways for Parents



A Differentiation Publication

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How Can We Differentiate?

In the last issue, learning styles were discussed as a means of differentiating the processes of learning. Another approach to differentiating by process is utilizing something called, Multiple Intelligences. Back in the early 1980s, a professor of education from Harvard named Howard Gardner developed this theory that, basically, defines the ways in which people are intelligent (or smart). Gardner now has 8 areas of Multiple intelligences. Below is a description of those intelligences.

Linguistic Intelligence (Word Smart) - These are people who like words and how they are used in reading, writing, or speaking. They may also like word games, storytelling, or other word based activities.

Musical Intelligence (Music Smart)- These are people who really like music, rhythm, melody, and sound patterns. They can hear when a piece of music or a singer is off key. Music smart people may like many kinds of music and enjoy singing, instruments, or concerts.

Logical/Mathematical Intelligence (Logic Smart) - These are people who enjoy figuring things out and may understand numbers and math very well. They may also enjoy science, riddles, brainteasers, and using computers and other technologies.

Visual/Spatial Intelligence (Picture Smart) - These people may be able to picture things or images in their heads. They may be able to show others what they see through art, design, photography, architecture, or invention.

Bodily/Kinesthetic Intelligence (Body Smart) - Body Smart people like using their bodies to learn new skills or express themselves in different ways. They may be athletes or like to use their bodies in artistic ways through dancing or acting. These are people who may be more interested in working with their hands and doing activities like crafts, making models, or repairing things.

Interpersonal Intelligence (People Smart) - These are people who are interested in interacting with other people. They may like to work in groups, may have many friends, and may be a part of a number of clubs or groups. A person who is in this category usually works as part of a team or works mostly with people.

Intrapersonal Intelligence (Self Smart) - These people are aware of their own feelings. They understand themselves, what they are good at and what they want to improve. They often understand themselves better than others understand them. They may keep a journal, create plans for the future, reflect on the past, and frequently set goals for themselves.

Naturalist Intelligence (Nature Smart) - Naturalists are very observant and like to identify and classify things. These can be things in nature (like plants and animals) or things in their lives (like CDs or other collections). Naturalists usually enjoy being outdoors and may like gardening, taking care of pets, cooking, or doing things to save the environment.

Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligences tells us that *all people have all 8 intelligences*. Some are stronger than others, but all are present. The intelligences not only define our strengths, but also tend to be our favored way or ways of learning.

How do Multiple Intelligences Affect the Processes by which Students Learn?

Like learning styles, knowing the many “smarts” of students helps teachers plan their instruction. When planning a lesson or unit of study, the teacher considers various intelligences so that when he or she is preparing to teach a concept or idea, instruction and related activities are developed to be inclusive of as many of these intelligences as possible. Again, while we have preferred ways of learning, it is also important to develop as many of our ways of being smart as possible.

Sinking into Summer Learning!

While it is great to have opportunities to relax and have some fun over the summer without the stress of daily schedules and nightly homework, summer can also be an opportunity for learning. With the Multiple Intelligences in mind, the remaining parts of this newsletter focus on both virtual and real learning opportunities.

Sizzling Summer Web Learning Opportunities

[Fun Brain](#) – This is a great website for online games and activities for students in math and language arts.

[Kindersite](#) – This is a site with games across curricular areas for students ages 7-12. The site provides a recommended age for the games available.

[Giggle Poetry](#) – I love this site for the wide variety of poetry available. Children can also create Fill-in-the-Blank poems and find Reader’s Theater poetry.

[NIEHS Kids’ Pages](#) – Here are the lyrics and music (in the form of midis) to a wide variety of music from children’s songs to oldies to songs

from movies and musicals! Make time for a sing along!

[Summertime Favorites](#) – Here is a summertime reading list from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Books are organized by grade level band.

Take a “Stay”cation!

With times being what they are and many families tightening their belts, “Stay”cations are becoming increasingly popular. With that in mind, I am listing the websites of some relatively local attractions that would provide opportunities for learning right here in the Chicagoland area.

[Chicago for Kids!](#) – This is a really neat website offered by Chicago’s Department of Tourism. It allows kids to “virtually” visit various attractions in the city of Chicago. Online tours are downloadable and there are even games related to various attractions. It would be a great site to visit before an actual visit to one or more of the many attractions this city has to offer.

[Chicago History Museum](#) This is the only city specific site I am mentioning, simply because this year the museum is honoring the Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday.

[The Center in Palos Park](#) – The Center offers Family Farm tours and other children’s programs in the arts.

[Cantigny](#) – The Robert McCormick grounds and First Division Museum are especially appropriate for students 5th grade and up.

[Morton Arboretum](#) – Explore the naturalist intelligence in you! You can even go bike riding through 9 miles of paved roads within this natural setting.

[Joliet Historical Museum](#) Learn the history of the region by experiencing a life size replica

depicting the building of the I & M Canal, strolling down turn of the century streets and much more!

[Napier Settlement](#) Experience 19th Century life in this living-history village.

[Isle la Cache](#) - This museum is a living history museum focusing on the time in local history when French voyageurs traveled the waters of our area. The museum is located along the Des Plaines River in Romeoville. Scroll to the bottom of the page for a calendar of events.

[Herbert Trackman Planetarium](#) - Were you aware that Joliet Junior College has its own planetarium? Download a brochure from this website.

[Cosley Zoo](#) - This is a facility of the Wheaton Park District. It features domestic farm animals and local wildlife. The site also features an historical train station and a picnic area.

[The Grove](#) - This is an outdoor history and nature museum in Glenview, Illinois that was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

[Blackberry Farm](#) - This is a living history museum located in Aurora with five museums of 19th Century life. It is run by the Fox Valley Park District.

[Illinois Railway Museum](#) Visit this museum in Union, Illinois to learn about our nation's railroad history. There is a "Day Out With Thomas" event in August for the little ones.



**Have a safe and fun
summer vacation!**