



THE GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER
CENTER FOR
CHARTER
SCHOOLS
CENTRAL MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

INFUSING THE MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES



Definition

Multiple Intelligences is defined as a theory created by Howard Gardner, who posited there are numerous intelligences that individuals may possess. These include interpersonal, intrapersonal, bodily-kinesthetic, linguistic, logical-mathematical, naturalistic, spatial, and musical.

Strategies to Infuse the Multiple Intelligences

Gardner argues that schools and teachers should teach in a way that supports all types of intelligence, not just the traditional ones such as linguistic and logical intelligence.

1. **Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence (“word smart”)** — knowledge of language use in speaking, reading and writing. Try to incorporate: creative writing activities such as poetry or scriptwriting; set up class debates; allow for formal speaking opportunities; use humor, such as joke writing or telling; and make sure there are plenty of reading opportunities
2. **Logical-Mathematical Intelligence (“number/reasoning smart”)** — commonly thought of as “scientific thinking,” or the ability to reason, work with abstract symbols, recognize patterns, and see connections between separate pieces of information. Try to incorporate: opportunities for problem-solving; involve calculations; create activities that involve deciphering a code; use pattern or logic games; and organize new information in an outline format.
3. **Visual-Spatial Intelligence (“picture smart”)** — allows people to visualize objects from different perspectives and in different ways, use objects within space, form mental images, and think in three-dimensions. Try to incorporate: mind mapping techniques; guided visualizations or verbal imagery; opportunities for artistic expression using a variety of mediums (paint, clay, etc.); make-believe or fantasy; and opportunities to create visual representations.
4. **Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence (“body smart”)** — commonly referred to as “learning by doing” and the ability to use the body to express emotion, play games, or create new products. Try to incorporate: body sculpture; role-playing, miming, or charade games; physical exercise, dance, or martial arts; and dramatic arts such as skits.
5. **Musical Intelligence (“music smart”)** — knowledge and sensitivity to music, human voice, audio patterns, and sounds in the environment. Try to incorporate: instruments and instrument sounds; environmental sounds to illustrate a concept; and musical composition and performance.
6. **Interpersonal Intelligence (“people smart”)** — working with others and communicating effectively. Try to incorporate: teaching collaborative skills; plenty of group work opportunities; person-person communication; and model empathy.
7. **Intrapersonal Intelligence (“self smart”)** — knowledge of the self in ways such as feelings, a range of emotional responses, and intuition about spirituality. Try to incorporate: meditation; self-reflection; and mindfulness.
8. **Naturalist Intelligence (“nature smart”)** — appreciating plants, animals, the atmosphere, and the earth. Try to incorporate: conservation efforts; classroom plant or animals; observing nature; include species classification; and hands-on labs of natural materials.

Resources

- » Edutopia.org
- » Teachertube.com
- » Teachingchannel.com
- » **Multiple Intelligences** by Dr. Spencer Kagan and Miguel Kagan
- » **Multiple Intelligences: New Horizons** by Howard Gardner