

THE APPLICATIONS OF MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES THEORY IN THE CLASSROOM SETTING AND ACTIVITIES

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INTRODUCTION

Multiple intelligences, the theory of human intelligence, developed by psychologist Howard Gardner, suggests there are at least seven ways for us to understand the world. The theory claims that each of these ways is a distinct intelligence. That is to say, a set of abilities or skills owned by people could use to understand and solve the problems they face.

Garden provides the following seven intelligences, although he thinks this list of intelligences may not be exhaustive.

1. Verbal-Linguistic – The ability to use words and language.
2. Logical-Mathematical – The capacity for inductive and deductive thinking and reasoning, as well as the use of numbers and the recognition of abstract patterns.
3. Visual-Spatial – The ability to visualize objects and spatial dimensions, and create internal images and pictures.
4. Body-Kinesthetic – The wisdom of the body and the ability to control physical motion..

5. Musical-Rhythmic – The ability to recognize tonal patterns and sounds, as well as a sensitivity to rhythms and beats.
6. Interpersonal – The capacity for person-to-person communications and relationships.
7. Intrapersonal – The spiritual, inner states of being self-reflection, and awareness.

Each of these intelligences is not mutual exclusive, it could be found in individual together with other intelligences. However, the performance and effectiveness of one or two intelligences could be superior than others. 🤖

THE APPLICATIONS IN THE CLASSROOM SETTING AND ACTIVITIES

Multiple intelligences theory suggests there are at least seven ways for us to understand the world. However, traditional schooling heavily favors the verbal-linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligences. Gardner suggests a more balanced curriculum for students. Under this point of view, schools and teachers should provide our students a appropriate curriculum, classroom setting and activities to facilitate the process of their learning. Thus our students could learn courses through their favorite ways, or their dominative intelligences. To be a teacher, especially a foreign language teacher, are there anything we can do to apply this principle to our classroom setting and activities? 🤖

The first, when mention to the classroom setting, teachers can establish some learning corners by the principle of multiple intelligences. For example, in the verbal-linguistic corner, or named the reading corner, teachers can put a lot of books here to satisfy the students with verbal-linguistic intelligence. In

the logical-mathematical corner, teachers can provide some games needed logical ability here, e.g., the game to recognize the minimal pairs or sets in English. In the visual-spatial corner, teachers can offer a lot of visual materials, such as flash cards, pictures, jigsaw puzzles, and posters, to meet the needs of the students with visual-spatial intelligences. In the body-kinesthetic corner, teachers can offer some games required the use of hands here, e.g., arranging letter blocks to make a word or a sentence. In the musical-rhythmic corner, teachers can provide some nursery rhymes, chants, and pop songs to meet students' learning ways of musical-rhythmic intelligence. In the interpersonal corner, teachers can provide some games or projects needed the participation of two or more students here, e.g. the higher level jigsaw puzzles. In the intrapersonal corner, teachers can provide a space letting students reflect what they have learned, e.g., the words they learned with the beginning of 'w'. 🤖

The second, teachers can apply multiple intelligences theory in their teaching activities to satisfy various types or needs of students. To satisfy the students with verbal-linguistic intelligence, teachers can use the technique of story telling. To satisfy the students with logical-mathematical intelligence, teachers can show them the relationship between minimal pairs or sets in phonics. As for the students with visual-spatial intelligence, teachers can teach them English with a lot of posters, pictures, and flash cards. To satisfy the students with body-kinesthetic intelligence, teachers can teach them with TPR (Total Physical Response). Then they can learn English through their actions. To satisfy the students with musical-rhythmic intelligence, teachers could teach them with songs, chants, and nursery rhymes. To meet the needs of the students with interpersonal intelligence, teachers could use two techniques: role play and cooperative learning. Thus students can acquire knowledge

through interactive activities. As for the students with intrapersonal intelligence, teachers can offer them some activities such as reflection. Besides, self-assessment is recommended to use for the students with this kind of intelligence. 🧑🏻

CONCLUSION

Multiple intelligences theory gives people a new direction to think about the process of learning. Not like other theories, e.g., the biological-maturation, the environmental-learning, the constructivist, and the cultural-context frameworks, this theory emphasizes the differences among each individual. Every person is unique and capable. This is, we all have our own strength and weakness. The question is how to make advantages of our strong intelligences and reach a acceptable level of our weak intelligences. This theory also reminds us that some students were treated as learning-retarded before might be a mistake. Maybe they just couldn't learn something by the ways their teacher usually used in the classroom. Besides, it gives the authorities a powerful reason to offer our students a more balanced curriculum that incorporates the arts, self-awareness, communication, and physical education. Because this kind of curriculum can take care of various kind of students. However, the fact is, traditional schooling heavily favors the verbal-linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligences. It is impossible to change the phenomenon right away. To be a teacher, the best thing we can do now is provide appropriate classroom setting and take various classroom activities in our daily teaching. By this way, students can acquire knowledge more easily and effectively. Simply if we can offer them what they need. Most of all, we have the opportunity to clarify our beliefs: each child is unique and capable. 🧑🏻