

Learning Styles Handbook & Curriculum Buying Guide

Welcome!

I'm here to guide you in discovering your child's learning modality and choosing a curriculum that will improve your child's learning.



I will step you through these action steps...

1. Discovering your child's learning style modality
2. Filling in your Curriculum Buying Worksheet
3. Filling in your Lesson Ideas Worksheet

Once you've finished the Learning Styles Handbook & Curriculum Buying Guide you will...

- Understand your child's unique learning style
- Know which homeschool curriculum to buy
- Teach exactly how your child learns
- Create lessons that make learning easier

If you have any questions please contact me at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lcontact>.

Improve this guide by sharing your comments and suggestions at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lcomments>.

Share your success story at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/ltestimonials>. Encourage others by sharing how using learning styles and customizing your curriculum has improved your child's learning.

Ready? Let's go!

Jena

STEP 1 WHAT IS YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING STYLE?

Learning styles are specific pathways where information flows quickly and easily into memory. When your homeschool curriculum utilizes these pathways the results are amazing!

Read through the following pages and check off the characteristics of your child. The highest number of checks is your child's preferred learning style modality.

I highly recommend having your child take a learning styles test. In this guide I am only covering modalities (auditory, kinesthetic, visual). Modalities are just the starting point to discovering how your child learns.



To get the full picture you need to take a learning styles test that includes Dispositions, Talents, and Interests, in addition to modalities.

Here are my recommendations....

The learning styles profile by the authors of Discover Your Child's Learning Style (<http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/ldiscover>) is by far the most comprehensive. It goes beyond identifying just your child's modality (auditory, kinesthetic, visual), it includes your child's learning personality, talents, and interests.

The profile is available for free in the back of their book Discover Your Child's Learning Style.

Or, if you prefer to work online, they offer the same test at <http://custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lstest> for \$30.

I've used both versions and I prefer the online version for two reasons...

- First, it has a huge list of possible interests for your child to choose from. The book only offers space for your child to write in their interests. (My daughter seemed to get writer's block at this point.)
- Second, the online version lists the motivators, study helps, assignment ideas, and daily schedules within the profile itself. To get the same information you will need to fish through the book to find the specifics for your child.

Auditory Learners

Exercise your vocal cords! Auditory Learners learn best through hearing information. Verbalizing is also very important for learning. Plan plenty of time for discussions.

Don't be alarmed if your child reads aloud or talks to herself. Children with auditory learning styles **NEED** to hear themselves speak in order to learn.



Check off the characteristics that fit your child...

- Remembers what is heard
- Speaks aloud while writing
- Learns to read easily with phonics
- Reads out loud to themselves
- Remembers information set to music
- Notices sounds
- Enjoys being read to
- Talks a lot
- Distracted by background noise
- Distracted by graphic information during lectures
- Gains little meaning from written information until it has been heard
- Has poor comprehension when reading silently
- Has difficulty following written directions

Total
Checked: _____

Kinesthetic Learners

Time to get moving! Kinesthetic learners learn best by moving and touching.

These 'hands-on' learners need to experience what they are learning - not just read or hear a lecture about it. Sitting still is a huge hindrance to their learning.

Kinesthetic children possess a "hands-on intelligence" that makes our world a better place to live. The next time you need your car fixed or drive over a bridge hug a Kinesthetic child. They make it possible!



They are the next Albert Einstein or Thomas Edison if allowed to blossom into their full potential. Homeschooling allows you to tailor a curriculum to meet your Kinesthetic Learner's needs and bring out their natural gifts.

Check off the characteristics that fit your child...

- Learns through first-hand experience
- Taps or doodles while listening
- Explores through touch and movement
- Is naturally skilled in physical activities such as sports or riding a bicycle
- Enjoys putting things together and taking them apart
- Uses fingers to figure out math problems
- Tracks with finger while reading
- Sits still for 5.2 seconds at a time!

Total
Checked: _____

Visual-Print Learners

Dig out your library card! Visual-Print learners learn best through reading and writing. They think in words and are natural readers and spellers.

"Traditional" curriculum and teaching methods are a perfect fit.

Check off the characteristics that fit your child...

- Learns through reading and writing
- Thinks in words
- Learns to read easily with a phonics program
- Has strong reading comprehension skills
- Remembers what has been read
- Is a strong speller
- Often highlights while they read
- Takes notes during lectures or from reading assignments
- Learns sequentially (step-by-step)



Total
Checked: _____

Visual-Spatial Learners

Sharpen your pencils! Visual-Spatial learners learn best through pictures and illustrations. Visual-Spatial learners think in pictures.

Once they have a picture of the concept, they've got it! No need for repetition and drill.

They do not learn sequentially so "traditional" teaching methods and curriculum only lead to frustration and poor academic performance.

Check off the characteristics that fit your child...

- Thinks in pictures
- Recognizes faces, objects, shapes, colors, details, and scenes
- Has a good sense of direction
- Needs to understand the big picture before getting into the details
- Does not learn sequentially (step-by-step)
- Learns by seeing and observing
- Uses visual images to recall information
- Enjoys doodling, drawing, painting, and sculpting
- Often reverses letters when writing
- Does not learn through repetition and drill
- Discovers patterns easily
- Doodles while listening



Total
Checked: _____

STEP 2 FILL OUT YOUR CURRICULUM BUYING WORKSHEET

- Print the Curriculum Worksheet on page 9 for each of your children.
- Write in the curriculum characteristics (see below) for your child's learning style modality along the top of the Curriculum Buying Worksheet.
- Grab your Curriculum Buying Worksheet and start shopping! Fill in the title, source and price for each resource.
- Place an 'x' for each criteria it meets.
- Score each resource by adding the number of 'x's and dividing by the total possible then multiply by 100. The higher the number the better suited it is for your child.
- Find curriculum according to your child's learning style at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lscurriculum>



Auditory Homeschool Curriculum Characteristics

- Read aloud
- Audio cds
- Online/DVD lectures
- Discussion questions
- Oral assignments.

See my recommendations for Auditory homeschool curriculum at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lssauditory>



Kinesthetic Homeschool Curriculum Characteristics

- Read aloud
- Manipulatives
- Hands-on projects
- Simulations
- Games

Quick note: cut and paste activities do not always meet the movement needs of Kinesthetic children. They have a place in your curriculum but should not take center stage.

See my recommendations for Kinesthetic homeschool curriculum at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lsskinesthetic>



Visual-Print Homeschool Curriculum Characteristics

- Independent reading assignments
- Varied writing assignments
- Workbooks
- Research

See my recommendations for Visual-Print homeschool curriculum at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lsp rint>



Visual-Spatial Homeschool Curriculum Characteristics

- Read aloud
- Manipulatives
- Hands-on projects
- Assignments involving art or creating
- Uses visuals

See my recommendations for Visual-Spatial homeschool curriculum at <http://www.custom-homeschool-curriculum.com/lsspatial>

STEP 3 FILL IN YOUR LESSON IDEAS WORKSHEET

Now it's time to brainstorm lesson ideas!

On the following pages you'll find learning activities and a Lesson Ideas Worksheet for each learning style modality.

Here is an example of how to fill out the worksheet...



Kinesthetic Lesson Idea Worksheet

Topic: Books - *Usborne Book of Astronomy & Space* and *Children's Atlas of the Universe*

<p>Textured Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create raised dot-to-dot flash cards of constellations <input type="checkbox"/> Create raised dot-to-dot puzzle of northern hemisphere constellations 	<p>Hands-On</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make craters (Mercury) <input type="checkbox"/> Create mini-greenhouse (Venus) <input type="checkbox"/> Create erosion (Earth) <input type="checkbox"/> Create eclipse (Moon) <input type="checkbox"/> Create Jupiter clouds 	<p>Drawing/Coloring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Color Star Color chart <input type="checkbox"/> Draw moon phases over 31 days
<p>Dramatization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create orbits using scale planets 	<p>Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Solar System Mobile 	<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Star gaze each month looking for new constellations
<p>Manipulatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Play-Doh while I read (create planets, stars, solar system, etc.) 	<p>Games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomer Match <input type="checkbox"/> Planet Match 	<p>Field Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Planetarium
<p>Models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create Scale Solar System 	<p>Videos/Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Magic School Bus <input type="checkbox"/> PBS <input type="checkbox"/> Apollo 11 <input type="checkbox"/> History Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Websites from Usborne 	<p>Demonstrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> She chooses a topic and demonstrates what she knows about it. (i.e. recreate our solar system and show how planets orbit)

Auditory Learning Activities

Ask yourself...

- (1) How can the topic be presented verbally?
- (2) How can my child 'tell' me what he has learned?

Be sure to talk through lessons and assignments with your child and allow for plenty of time for discussions.



American History and World History

Reading aloud and books-on-cd are great ways to learn history.

Language Arts

Auditory Learners would rather talk about the assignment than write about it. Narration, discussions and oral presentations are alternatives to written assignments.

Literature

Reading aloud and books-on-cd are great ways to enjoy literature.

Math

Use DVD/online lectures and resources that put facts to music.

Phonics

Build phonemic awareness through Phonics CD's and reading aloud to your child.

Science

Reading aloud, information set to music, and lectures are ways for your child to learn science. Use narration, discussions, oral presentations and



Teach Lessons Using...

- Lectures on CD
- Reading aloud to your child
- Facts set to music
- Live lectures (or online/ DVD)
- Interactive computer programs
- Talking through lessons and assignments with your child
- Time for discussions
- Group (or partner) activities
- Videos
- Reading aloud instructions to your child
- Choral reading

Have Your Auditory Learner...

- Participate in group (or partner) activities
- Read along with books-on-cd/mp3
- Read aloud to oneself (or other siblings/whole family)
- Verbally repeat key points
- Set facts to music
- Use interactive computer programs
- Talk aloud while following a recipe, reading instructions for a literature assignment, memorizing states and capitals, working through an algebra problem, etc.
- Answer workbook/comprehension questions orally
- Use narration instead of book reports
- Give oral presentations instead of written essays
- Set information to familiar tunes and sing it

Auditory Lesson Ideas Worksheet



Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Lectures (Live, CD, Online, DVD)	Read Aloud	Facts Set to Music
Interactive Computer Program	Discussions	Videos

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...



Oral Assignments	Oral Presentations	Narration
Create Songs	Discuss	Read Aloud
Interactive Computer Programs	Audio	Books-on-CD
Group/Partner Activities	Music	Create Rhymes

Kinesthetic Learning Activities

Ask yourself...

- (1) How can the topic be presented verbally?
- (2) How can my child 'tell' me what he has learned?

American History and World History

Read aloud while your child moves around the room, doodles, builds with clay or Legos. Experience the historic period through dramatization, recipes, simulations, creating period art, or building models and games.

Language Arts

Kinesthetic learners benefit from manipulatives and games for writing, spelling and grammar.

Literature

Read aloud while your child moves around the room, doodles, builds with clay or Legos. Use hands-on projects such as dioramas, role plays, or drawing to dig deeper into literature.

Math

Manipulatives and movement are a necessity in math. Incorporate real-life applications as often as possible (cook while learning fractions or build a kite in geometry).

Phonics

Use manipulatives and whole body movements to learn letter sounds.

Science

Science is a great subject for hands-on learners. Make sure resources offer plenty of hands-on experiments (not just cut-and-paste activities).





Teach Lessons Using...

- Field trips
- Experiments
- Reading aloud so your child can move while listening
- Simulations
- Role playing
- Learning centers

Have Your Kinesthetic Learner...

- Construct models (solar system, Egyptian city)
- Experience the topic first hand (field trips, demonstration, plant a garden)
- Touch and examine what she is learning (dissect a flower)
- Work with manipulatives for math, spelling, and writing
- Role-play historic events, math processes, scenes from literature, etc.
- Memorize information (such as math facts) while moving (i.e.. playing basketball)
- Instead of written reports have your child do dramatizations
- Play educational games (fun way to learn grammar, history, math and spelling)
- Use videos and websites
- Take frequent "movement" breaks during seatwork

Kinesthetic Lesson Ideas Worksheet



Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Field Trips	Experiments	Reading Aloud
Simulations	Role Play	Learning Centers

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...



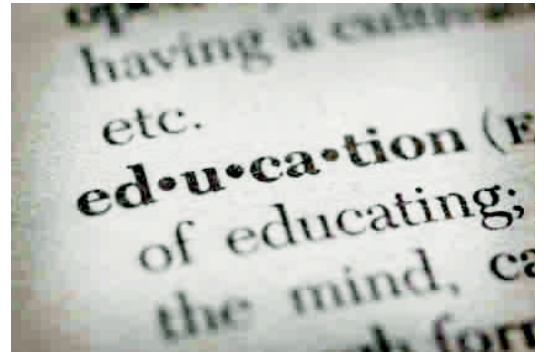
Construct Models	Demonstrations	Manipulatives
Role Play	Dramatization	Educational Games
Videos	Websites and Computer Programs	Hands-On
Drawing/Coloring		

Visual-Print Learning Activities

Choose curriculum that includes lots of reading and writing assignments. Textbook/workbook and literature-based programs are a great fit.

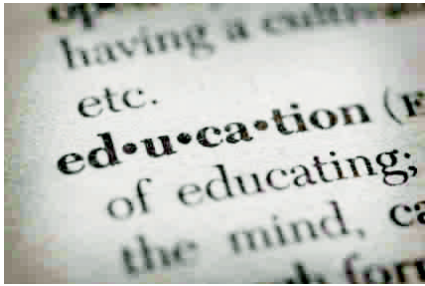
Teach Lessons Using...

- Assigned reading
- Outline of the unit as a handout
- Flashcards
- Written directions for assignments



Have Your Visual Print Learner...

- Read, read, and read some more
- Take notes during lectures or after reading assignments
- Outline
- Journal
- Write essays, creative stories, poem,
- Use workbooks and worksheets
- Highlight while reading
- Write research papers
- Create a timeline of events



Visual Print Lesson Ideas Worksheet

Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Assigned Reading	Outline of the Unit	Flashcards

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...

Reading	Notetaking	Outline
Journal	Writing	Worksheets
Research	Timeline	Copywork

Visual-Spatial Learning Activities

Ask yourself...

- (1) How can the topic be illustrated?
- (2) How can my child 'show' me what he has learned?

American History and World History

Reading (and read alouds) allow visualization of the stories. Use videos, computer programs, lapbooks, notebooking, and hands-on projects.



Language Arts

Look for resources that utilize flow charts, concept mapping, graphic organizers, and art.

These learners are brilliant with content yet struggle with the mechanics of writing. Remember, best-selling authors have editors! Avoid curriculum that emphasizes spelling, grammar, and capitalization.

They do not learn sequentially, which is why most spelling programs don't work. Create picture cards for each spelling word and have your child study them.

Literature

Reading (and read alouds) allow Spatial learners to visualize the stories in their minds.

Math

Visual/pictorial aids and manipulatives are a necessity in math. Use illustrations and stories to teach facts and processes. Color code steps for solving math problems. Spatial learners excel with concepts but struggle with details and computations.

Phonics

Visual Spatial learners often struggle with learning to read. Use a phonics and whole word approach to reading. Since they think in pictures, connect letter sounds with pictures. Give them plenty of time with this.

Science

Use flow charts and graphic organizers for visualizing information. Use reading (and read alouds), videos, computer programs, lapbooks, notebooking, and plenty of hands-on experiments.



Teach Lessons Using...

- Visuals - "a picture is worth a thousand words"
- Flow charts to teach processes
- Colored pens to distinguish parts (show parts of speech in a sentence, spelling patterns, divisor/dividend, etc.)
- Videos
- Field trips
- Highlighting, underlining, and drawing images while teaching
- Discovery - capitalize on your child's pattern-finding strengths
- Reading aloud
- Visuals hung up around the room (i.e. Greek & Latin word parts)
- Unit charts to introduce the big picture

Have Your Visual Spatial Learner...

- Draw while listening to lectures
- Use webbing to brainstorm, organize information for writing (pre-writing), or analyze stories and characters
- Use concept mapping to show knowledge of a subject and its relationships
- Map locations of a story setting, historical events, geographical features
- Work with math manipulatives
- Use graphic organizers for just about everything. Introduce or recap a unit, analyze literature, explain cycles and sequences, pre-writing and brainstorming are just a few examples.
- Create storyboards for creative writing and literary analysis
- Dramatize or demonstrate the concept
- Draw pictures of events on a timeline
- Research using websites and videos
- Create picture cards for learning spelling words, math facts, etc.
- Create graphs and charts to show the results of research assignments or to answer workbook questions
- Construct models
- Create collages, posters, and murals of a concept or to summarize a unit
- Use computer software such as Eyewitness Encyclopedia



Visual Spatial Lesson Ideas Worksheet

Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Visuals	Reading Aloud	Flow Charts
Unit Charts	Colored Pens	Videos
Field Trips	Drawing While Teaching	Visuals Around The Room

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...



Drawing	Webbing	Concept Mapping
Working With Maps	Manipulatives	Graphic Organizers
Storyboard	Dramatize/Demonstrate	Pictorial Timeline
Websites and Computer Programs	Picture Cues	Graphs/Charts
Construct Models	Collages	Mural