

## Multiple Intelligences

Howard Gardner advanced a theory of Multiple Intelligences. His work has expanded the concept of what intelligence is. He believes there are many different kinds of intelligences. In learning situations, according to Gardner, we often emphasize only the verbal and linguistic intelligences. He suggests that people possess a wide spectrum of intelligences.

He outlines seven distinct types of intelligence: Linguistic, Musical, Logical-mathematical, Spatial, Bodily kinesthetic and Intrapersonal and Interpersonal. While he believes that these seven types are interrelated, he also suggests that distinct brain areas are dedicated to processing for each type. He suggests that learners should be given many opportunities and chances in learning. As designers of learning experiences, we should nurture all types of intelligences and be aware of the multiple ways of thinking and learning.

Educators have struggled with the question, “Should we find the learner’s strength and teach to it?” No sound data exists to suggest that outcomes are better when a single type of intelligence is tapped in learning activities. Rather most educators believe it is ideal to use a variety of strategies and approaches to develop the learner in all of the seven types of intelligence. For example a concept may be taught using one approach such as Linguistic and an activity designed to follow up or practice with the concept which taps a different intelligence such as bodily kinesthetic.

### References:

Howard Gardner, *Frames of Mind*, New York: Basic Books, 1985

Howard Gardner, *The Unschooled Mind: How Children Think and How Schools Should Teach*, New York: Basic Books, 1991

Howard Gardner, *Multiple Intelligences: The Theory in Practice*, Basic Books, 1993