

## ADDRESSING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN CLASS

*by:*

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Diversity of individuals leads to a successful nation building. A school which serves as a mold of various talents and potentials among individuals definitely contribute to the provision of the nation's needs to various kinds of manpower. It is in school where giftedness is nurtured and weaknesses are strengthened.

This task is quite challenging on the part of the school that caters hundreds and thousands of children. The question on how to identify individual talents and potentials is being faced by the teachers and addressing each of them is quite taxing.

Nevertheless, an appropriate technique must be utilized to further develop those distinct talents. According to Howard Gardener who is a developmental psychologist, a teacher should teach in a way that supports all types of intelligence.

According to him, there are 8 bits of intelligence namely linguistic (word smart), Logical-Mathematical (number/reasoning smart), Visual-Spatial (picture smart), Bodily-Kinesthetic (body smart), Musical (music smart), Interpersonal (people smart), Intrapersonal (self smart) and Naturalist (nature smart) and none of these intelligences are above the other, thus, these should be given equal attention when it comes to teaching instructions.

To develop linguistic intelligence, activities like creative writing, poetry and scriptwriting may be employed in a lesson. Likewise, debates and other formal speaking activities may be included as class activities.

For logical-mathematical intelligence; problem-solving, using pattern or logic games and deciphering a code are the learning activities that may be provided while for Visual-Spatial intelligence; mind mapping, artistic expressions using paint, clay etc, and making collages can be helpful.

Bodily-kinesthetic intelligent learners may be provided with activities such as role playing, miming, charade games, skits, physical activities, dance and martial arts while musically inclined students may be exposed to instrument sounds, use of environmental sounds to create concept, musical composition and creating songs about the lessons.

Interpersonal intelligence or people smart may be provided with activities that develop collaborative skills or plenty of group work activities and person-person communication while intrapersonal or self-smart learners may be provided with activities that practice self-reflection, meditation and mindfulness.

Last but not the least, naturalist or nature-smart learners may practice conservation, encourage having a classroom plants or animals to take care of, go on nature walks and have hands-on labs of natural materials.

Indeed, battling individual differences is quite perplexing but the execution of the above suggested activities may be of great help. The task may actually be challenging but the outcome will be rewarding not only on the part of the learners but most especially to our country for having well-developed and successful future nation builders and there is really nothing more for a teacher to say but “challenge accepted”.

*References:*

<https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/what-is-the-multiple-intelligences-theory/>

What is the Multiple Intelligences Theory?

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