What Species is Your Child?
Types of kids and learning styles
All Types of Kids
The Daydreamers

You spend all day saying “Look at me!” or “Look at this!” or “Look this way!”
The Shy Ones

You spend all day coaxing words out of them
Cool Kids

You spend all day enduring judgment that “this is boring!”

And then you have to convince them it’s not.
Perfectly Studious Kids

You spend all day answering “who,” “when,” “how,” and “where” questions.
Drama Llamas

You spend all day answering, “But, WHYYYYYYYYYYYYY??
Crazy is as Crazy Does

You spend all day containing chaos
So by the end of the day, you look like this................
Six Learning Styles

**Listeners**
- Like traditional lectures, slides and somebody to tell them what to do
- Enjoy the 'chalk and talk' theory and presentations
- Will listen to orally read books in class

**Readers**
- Traditional classes frustrate them
- Want to learn at own pace
- May not ask teacher to slow down
- Want to be given notes and to work on their own
- Will listen slightly to teacher and then speed through text
- Will work independently if given a book to read on own

**Writers**
- Make their own notes
- Like space on any handouts so they can make notes
- Benefit from written outlines and written exercises
Six Learning Styles

**Talkers**
- Learn most through discussion
- May listen to what is said, but then they need to question, challenge, and discuss the subject until they understand and it has settled in their long-term memory
- Regularly pause for questions or let them interrupt at any time.
- Give group exercises where they discuss what they read

**Watchers**
- Like to be shown how to do something, to see examples of what works and what does not. They then imitate what they have seen
- Show them videos and do demonstrations

**Doers**
- Learn by trying something out and finding out what works and does not work for them. They will then change what they do and try again until they get it right or conclude that it does not work
- Get impatient with talking
- Give them exercises to do and particularly let them practice, such as with role-play games
Children also have needs that must be met.
So where do you start?

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Why do kids NEED our interaction?

The Daydreamers?
To pull them out of their heads

The Shy Ones?
To help them belong

The Cool Kids?
To help them be independent and unique
Why do kids NEED our interaction?

The Perfectly Studious Kids?

For self worth

Because they may have connected their worth with success

The Drama Llamas?

For self-assurance

The Crazy Kids?

For boundaries and outside control
Interaction for all kids

• We need to show them:
  • That we hear them
  • Understand them
  • That we will teach them ways to protect themselves
  • That we will help them achieve
  • And that we can help them belong
Then we must transfer that relationship to a book.
Must come up with ways to make reading personal and need fulfilling

All about ME
Connection of characters

• Are you like any character in the book?

• Do you know somebody like the characters?

• How would you feel if you were this character?

• Would you like to be this character’s friend?
Connection of problems and fears

- How did they verbalize problems?
- How do you verbalize problems?

- How did they solve problems?
- How do you solve problems?

- Did their solution have positive or negative results?

- How do the characters feel?

- How would you feel if you were in a similar situation?
Connection of hopes and dreams

• How did the characters achieve their dreams?

• Do you wish you were like one of the characters? Who and Why?

• Did the character’s hopes and dreams make them happy or powerful?

• Can everyone have a happy ending?
Excitement

• Why do kids want to be entertained?
Why do kids want to be entertained?

**The Daydreamers?**
Need something to compete in excitement with their imagination

**The Shy Ones?**
Will not seek out excitement but still want it

**The Cool Kids?**
Because it’s cool to have fun
Why do kids want to be entertained?

**The Perfectly Studious Kids?**
To get a break from serious

**The Drama Llamas?**
They thrive on drama and excitement

**The Crazy Kids?**
Anything for a distraction
We all want pleasure, so we must connect that book with pleasure.
Must find ways to entertain them while focusing on the object, “BOOK”

- Involve their senses and body
  - Connect laughter
  - Connect action
  - Connect plot
- Connect with their everyday life
- Connection of entertainment need
Involve their senses and body

Stimulated senses spark brain activity

Touch, Smell, Sight, Sound, Taste

Movement brings oxygen to the brain

Reduces anxiety and increases blood flow to the brain

Movement increases dopamine

It boosts drive, focus, and concentration
Interactive books for movement
Connect laughter and fun
Involve them in the book again

- Connect action
- Connect plot
- Connect everyday life
Connection of action

- Has the reader ever engaged in that action?
- Is the character doing something right/wrong or fun/not fun?
- Can you connect fun things you do with the character’s fun?
- Maybe recreate the same fun thing you read about in class
- Maybe role play the action in the story like do a play
Connection of plot

What would you do in this situation?

How would you change the ending? Or middle? Or action?

Recreate the action with an alternate ending. Or an alternate universe. Or alternate characters like animals, robots, and zombies.

Create a happy ending or a sad one.

Build plot trees where you follow many different scenarios where “if” this happened, “then” that would result.
Connection of everyday life

What actions are similar to your everyday life?

What actions do you want to do?

Have you seen this action in movies, TV, video games, or heard it in songs?

Have you heard or done this in your family?

Do you believe this?

Do you trust this?
Flexibility

• Why do kids need flexibility?
Why do kids need flexibility?

The Daydreamers?
They need us to meet them outside the box

The Shy Ones?
Social norms do not give them enough time to think

The Cool Kids?
They look outside themselves for behavior cues
Why do kids need flexibility?

The Perfectly Studious Kids?
They are so regimented that anything out of the norm can fluster them.

The Drama Llamas?
To help them breathe.

The Crazy Kids?
Because they need outside control, yet also freedom.
Flexible connection with type of kid

- **The Daydreamers?**
  Child with ADHD 3 seconds of attention unless it interests them
  Average 13 year old 7 seconds of attention span
  Used to digital multi-tasking
  Stick with interest, quick, easy, and visual
  Books with pictures and varied print

- **The Shy Ones?**
  Books let them be heroes without leaving their comfort zone
  Let them choose a book if you can; if not, find a common ground with the protagonist

- **The Cool Kids?**
  Want to work in groups so form a book club
  Give them popular or trending reading material
  Create social media assignments
Flexible connection with type of kid

The Perfectly Studious Kids?

Build up their self – esteem with leadership roles and give assignments where they can excel.

Challenge them with reading assignments that are fun (because they sometimes forget what about fun).

The Drama Llamas?

Make an assignment that shows their talent: Perform a play connected to book or let them do cross-aged book club.

Focus on the drama of characters in a book.

The Crazy Kids?

Challenge them to compete in a task and reward them.

Find out what interests them and find books on that subject; even if driving you crazy is their interest. There are books on kids driving teachers crazy.
Crazy Kids: the sequel

Give choices with boundaries

Spell it out beforehand
Give them limited choices
Offer help to reach their goal

Stick to consequences
Flexible connection with learning style

- **Listeners**
  
  Read to them

- **Readers**
  
  Let them choose books and read at their own pace

- **Writers**
  
  Offer outline templates

- **Talkers**
  
  Read a little, and then talk a little, and then repeat

- **Watchers**
  
  Connect videos or movies to the book

- **Doers**
  
  Do a project connected with the book
Then there is the added specifics

Learning Disabilities
Can’t quite learn it

Opposition
Wants opposite of parent’s goal

Reluctant to read
Negative reaction to reading
Then there is the added specifics

**Learning Disabilities**
Can’t quite learn it

**Opposition**
Wants opposite of parent’s goal

**Reluctant to read**
Negative reaction to reading

Talk to your doctor or school about getting your child tested. Read handouts on learning disabilities

Find ways to compromise on perceived power. Read handouts on opposition.

Look for suggestions on how to engage a reluctant reader. Read handouts on reluctant readers.
So what type of kid and learner do you have?

Work with who you have for a stress free reading environment