

JOYFUL MUSIC, JOYFUL LEARNING  
**NINE WAYS TO LEARN**  
*by Sharla Dance*

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What kind of learner  
are you?

What kinds of learners  
are your children?

*We are generally a mix of three  
or more of the following...*

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**1** Verbal/Linguistic Intelligence...  
**Word Smart**

*This learner needs to say, hear, and see words*

We use this intelligence for storytelling, conversations, putting thoughts down on paper, writing letters, creating poetry, using humor, creating puns, understanding plays on words, creating metaphors, using grammar and syntax in both speaking and writing, reading instructions, listening to lectures, reading a book, speaking in front of people.

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**2** Logical/Mathematical Intelligence...  
**Logic & Math Smart**

*This learner needs to explore patterns, relationships, and categories in an organized, controlled way*

We use this intelligence for problem solving, finding connections between separate pieces of information, making lists, setting priorities, organizing, counting change at the grocery, scientific thinking, analysis, performing complex calculations, recognizing patterns.

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**3** Musical/Rhythmical Intelligence...  
**Music Smart**

*This learner needs beat, rhythm, melody, musical form, and musical harmony*

We use this intelligence for humming a jingle from the radio, using different tones of voice to communicate fear, intense joy, excitement, or loss, expressing deep religious or patriotic feelings, cutting with scissors, performing the rhythmic movement of a highly refined athletic ability, dancing, reading out loud, hammering, skipping, listening to different bird calls, listening to and performing music, singing hymns, creating little tunes. This is the intelligence that allows us to hear the nuances of someone's voice and understand their meaning.

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SHARLA DANCE loves to teach children's music. She has published the book, *To Teach a Child a Song*, and has a Primary blog, [TeachingPrimaryMusic.com](http://TeachingPrimaryMusic.com)

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## 4 Visual/Spatial Intelligence...

### **Picture Smart**

*This learner needs to learn visually through color, images, and pictures*

We use this intelligence for daydreaming, imagining, visualizing a story being told, decorating a room, drawing pictures, reading a map, interpreting a sewing pattern or house blueprint, visualizing things we want in life, being aware of the shapes and sizes in our surroundings, recognizing different shapes of cars, inventing new machines.

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## 5 Bodily Kinesthetic Intelligence...

### **Body Smart**

*This learner needs to touch, manipulate things, experience things with the body, and move the body*

We use this intelligence for playing the piano by feel, typing without looking at the keyboard, riding a bike, catching an object, maintaining balance while walking, role playing, sports, dancing, conveying silent messages through body language, brushing teeth, buttoning a shirt, having “gut” feelings. In children, this intelligence is essential, one of the most important, as many of the processes of thinking start with body movement cells developing into thinking cells.

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## 6 Interpersonal Intelligence...

### **People Smart**

*This learner needs to relate with others, cooperate, and have interaction with other people to learn best*

We use this intelligence for working with a partner, organizing a group of people to accomplish a task, listening empathetically, enjoying relationships with other people, understanding how another person feels, nurturing another person’s growth, contributing to a group effort, peer teaching, playing games together, community involvement, and apprenticeships.

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## 7 Intrapersonal Intelligence...

### **Self Knowledge**

*This learner needs time to themselves, needs to work alone on self motivated projects, and needs to have time to think about themselves in relationship to the surrounding world*

We use this intelligence for reflecting on self, writing in a journal, sensing who we are in the huge scheme of things, dreaming about unrealized potential, meditating, sensing mood swings in self, sensing peak output times in self, sensing inner needs and recognizing the emotions we feel within ourselves.

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## 8 Spiritual Intelligence...

### **Spirit Smart**

*This learner needs experience with the Holy Ghost and with God’s word*

We use this intelligence for understanding our place in the universe, for hearing and responding to spiritual promptings, for praying, for reading the scriptures, for meditation about spiritual truths, for comprehending our relationship with God.

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## 9 Naturalist/Outdoor Intelligence...

### **Earth Smart**

*This learner needs hands on interaction with nature and the out-of-doors*

We use this intelligence for camping, bug collecting, scouting, hiking, classifying nature, bird watching, gardening, fishing, observing nature, catching frogs and insects, rock climbing, watching a sunset. We learn from watching the patterns of nature, from feeling the reality of the physical world of nature, and noticing what happens in nature. We can use imagination to remember tastes, smells, heat, wind, etc which is a very powerful and universal way to learn.