

SUGGESTED AIDS FOR LEFT/RIGHT BRAIN LEARNERS

Use these activities to encourage the success of left/right brain dominant learners. Integrating both hemispheres increases learning potential and more effective use of your brain.

LEFT

- break down concepts into smaller, sequential parts or steps
- use concrete examples to make abstract concepts more understandable
- encourage logical step-by-step problem-solving techniques
- discuss the role of organized concrete thinking in decision making
- learn various strategies to analyze specific problems
- recognize, appreciate, and understand solution steps in logical thinking
- use games, toys, materials with specific conclusions and purposes
- break down major concepts into contributing parts; organize these parts into sub-groups
- use materials that help organize (binders, daily planners, calendars)
- use graphic organizers to illustrate the parts or steps combined to achieve the whole concept
- use manipulative materials that demonstrate a process
- discuss or repeat orally while writing
- use written and oral instructions (teachers) and repeat them back orally (students)
- talk aloud while studying when appropriate
- discuss specific facts and details
- organize brainstorming ideas into a conclusion
- play games that minimize risk taking
- play games or use problem solving strategies that encourage finding varying/different attributes or characteristics
- encourage involvement in mathematical and various scientific activities
- encourage talking through problems
- use or create humor

RIGHT

- discuss, draw, write the major concept first before learning it
- encourage use of imagination through creative writing, dramatics, story telling
- discuss the role of feelings in decision making
- use role-playing activities
- use creative craft materials for inventive projects
- use graphic organizers to illustrate the "whole" concept
- use manipulative materials to provide "hands-on" orientation that demonstrates spatial relationships
- use touch and movement activities
- use illustrations whenever possible; "when in doubt, draw it out"
- conduct experiments
- apply brainstorming strategies
- use written instructions and have students create their own
- demonstrate how to build or make something
- make collage pictures
- utilize "open-ended" discussions to examine all sides of a problem/answer
- use "open-ended" games, puzzles, etc.
- play games that encourage risk taking
- play games or use problem solving strategies that encourage finding common attributes or characteristics
- encourage involvement in a wide variety of musical activities
- discuss appropriate and acceptable outlets for emotions
- use problem-solving strategies that encourage simultaneous thinking
- observe completion of tasks before trying it independently
- encourage students to create their own problem-solving systems
- use abstract materials
- encourage self-improvement rather than peer competition
- devise methods to help with organizational skills; make lists, use calendars, assignment sheets
- use spelling aids, visual memory strategies
- use or create humor