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LET YOUR STUDENTS GO BEYOND THEIR LIMITS

Are all students happy in your class? Do your teaching styles match students' learning styles? If not, let's explore the issue.

Every child is a genius. That doesn't mean that every child can paint like Leonardo da Vinci, compose like Ludwig van Beethoven. But every child is a genius according to one of the original meanings of the word "genius," which is «to be zestful or joyous». Every child is born with that capacity.

Unfortunately, there are strong forces working at home (poverty, anxiety, pressure on kids), in the schools (testing in an atmosphere of judgment, labeling of kids as learning disabled, boring teachers, and not perfect curriculum) and within the broader culture (especially mass media, represses the genius in our children through its constant attack of violence, second rate programmes). Those forces stop developing the genius qualities in children.

How to help children reawaken their natural genius? First, we, adults, need to reawaken our own natural genius—find within ourselves the source of our own creativity, vitality, playfulness, and wonder. Second, we have to treat each child as a unique gift from God capable of doing wonderful things in the world. We have to understand that each child is a genius in a totally different way from another child because everyone has different abilities to learning and the **Theory of Multiple Intelligences** highlights how to help kids succeed on their own terms. By fusing the theory we can awaken each child's natural genius.

I learned Multiple Intelligences theory (MI theory) when I came back from the USA in 1999 where I had watched how it worked at summer school. Now when teaching schoolchildren and university students I'm absolutely sure that MI

theory is a great key that helps to cultivate the successful generation of leaders and to meet all six human needs.

The Theory was introduced by Howard Gardner in 1983. Howard Gardner's definition of intelligence is the ability to solve a problem or create a product that matters to society. The MI theory is based on the belief that we all possess at least eight unique intelligences through which we are able to learn/teach new information, to become successful and to let the world flourish.

Dr. Gardner says that our schools and culture focus most of their attention on linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligence though we all possess eight intelligences and have our own unique ways of thinking and learning. How to teach or learn in eight different ways? One of the most remarkable features of the theory of multiple intelligences is that it provides **eight different potential pathways** to learning. If a teacher is having difficulty reaching a student in the more traditional linguistic or logical ways of instruction, the theory of multiple intelligences suggests several other ways in which the material might be presented to facilitate effective learning. Whatever you are teaching or learning, see how you might connect it with words (linguistic intelligence), numbers or logic (logical – mathematical intelligence), pictures (spatial intelligence), music (Musical intelligence), self – reflection (intrapersonal intelligence), a physical experience (bodily – kinesthetic intelligence), a social experience (interpersonal intelligence) an experience in the natural world (naturalistic intelligence). There is also the ninth intelligence. Some educators call it existential intelligence, others referred to it as spiritual intelligence or cosmic smarts.

MI theory expands our horizon in teaching/ learning giving students a chance. To get started, put the topic of whatever you're interested in teaching or learning about in the center of a blank sheet of paper, and draw eight straight lines radiating out from this topic. Label each line with a different intelligence. Think of activities that may address every student and let him display his abilities to learning in the best possible way.

MI theory helps students not only use their abilities, it also helps them to identify the many ways of being smart (word smart, picture smart, self smart, music smart, people smart, body smart, nature smart, and logic smart), provides ways to develop all eight kinds of smarts, and offers tips and resources for making the most of one's strongest intelligences and strengthening the others. The theory helps students grow as a personality. It helps students go beyond their limits.

Literature

1. Gardner, Howard. *Intelligence Reframed: Multiple Intelligences for the 21st Century*. New York: Basic, 2000.
2. Dryden, Gordon , Jeannette, Voss . *The New Learning Revolution*. Stratford. UK, 2005.