

## LEARNING AND EDUCATION

There are many different ways of learning. Do you learn best by reading or hearing an oral presentation? Do you have a greater chance of mastering a task if someone shows you how to do it or if you try to do it yourself? For people with disabilities, understanding their distinct learning style is critical to success.

*Jack recently volunteered at a church supper with his mother. Assigned to pour punch, a volunteer began to tell Jack what his responsibilities were. Jack did not respond to the woman but kept looking at the punch bowl. Since it appeared that Jack did not understand what she was saying, she told him again what he was to do. Jack again did not respond and began to rock back and forth as he was becoming agitated. When his mother noticed this, she mentioned to the volunteer that Jack needs to be shown how she would like him to pour the punch and then be allowed to try it several times before he understands what is expected of him.*

Information about learning styles must be passed on to others so the person with a disability will have an easier transition in future years. Knowing the best methods of teaching and how to reinforce the things taught will result in less frustration on everyone's part!

It is important to capture the educational experiences of the person. For many older individuals, their formal education may be limited. However, they may have participated in a number of informal activities that have provided valuable learning experiences.

*Alice never attended public schools. She grew up living with her parents, her siblings, and her mother's older sister, an elementary school teacher. While Alice never received a formal education, her aunt spent countless hours teaching Alice many basic skills. Alice can read a number of single words (such as "stop" or "exit"), can tell the difference between different coins and paper money, and can sign her own name.*

A person with a disability, like most people, learns best in a certain type of environment. Do quiet settings promote learning? Or do they prefer to interact with others?



*The following tools may help you plan. Select those that work best for your situation or create your own. Provide as much detail as you can. Add extra pages if you need to.*

*The person's learning style may not be easy to communicate. In order to generate ideas, it may be best to start with the Educational Experiences and Helpful Learning Hints in this section. These tools may provide greater understanding of the person. You can then use this information to answer the more detailed questions about the person's learning style found later in the section.*

**Tools**

Educational Experiences

Helpful Learning Hints

Best Learning Situations

Teaching a New Task

Things to Consider About Learning  
Style

Learning Style Questions

# EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

FORMAL	INFORMAL





# HELPFUL LEARNING HINTS . . . . .

## Learning Style:

Learns best by:

- ❑ Verbal instruction
- ❑ Reading
- ❑ Demonstration
- ❑ Hands-on
- ❑ Checklists
- ❑ Other:



## Teaching Style:

- ❑ Present Facts
- ❑ Present Examples
- ❑ Repetition
- ❑ Other:



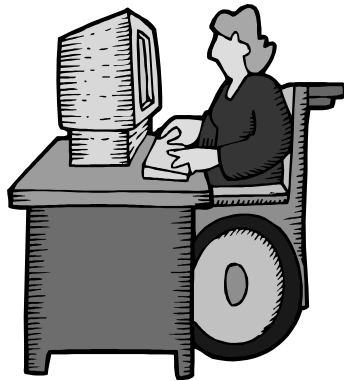
## Activities to Help Maintain Skill Level

- ❑ Discuss on regular basis
- ❑ Engage in activity
- ❑ Ask questions
- ❑ Other:



## Motivations

List those things that help motivate the person:



## Modifications / Adaptations

List any accommodations, adaptive equipment or supports the person needs for learning:



*The Best Learning Situation . . .*



<b>Conditions that Promote Learning</b>	<b>Conditions that Inhibit Learning</b>



## *TEACHING A TASK*

**Imagine you are teaching the person a new task. What steps would you take?**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**



## *Things to Consider About Learning Style*

*Describe things that help and interfere with the person's ability to learn & perform...*

### **Personal Attributes**

- Aspirations
- Personal goals
- Attentiveness
- Distractions
- Interests
- Confidence
- Memory

### **Skills & Talents**

- Strengths
- Areas requiring assistance or support
- Educational achievements
- Technology & adaptive materials/equipment
- Knowledge
- Leadership abilities

### **Teaching Styles & Expertise**

- Best learning modes (doing, watching, touching, listening...)
- Practice & repetition
- Organization
- Steps
- How handles supervision/authority
- Group vs. individual situations

### **Communication**

- Speed & rhythm
- Articulation and emphasis
- Listening
- Understanding
- Aids and adaptive equipment





