

# Multisensory Teaching Techniques



- Multisensory techniques are frequently used for children with learning difficulties.




# But

- Multisensory techniques can be useful for all the students.



# Multisensory teaching techniques encourage students to use some or all their senses to:

- 
- Gather information about a task
  - Link information to ideas they already know and understand
  - Perceive the logic involved in solving problems
  - Learn problem solving tasks
  - Tap into nonverbal reasoning skills
  - Understand relationships between concepts
  - Store information and store it for later recall

# Most children learn

- By seeing



- By hearing



# When learning difficulties appear...

- The solution for these difficulties is to involve the use of more of the child's senses, especially the use of touch (tactile) and movement (kinetic). This will help the child's brain to develop tactile and kinetic memories to hang on to, as well as the auditory and visual ones.

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- But what about  
smell and  
taste?

# Senses and learning styles



- Many students have an area of sensory learning strength, sometimes called a learning style.
- When students are taught using techniques consistent with their learning styles, they learn more easily
- Most students, with a difficulty or not, enjoy the variety that multisensory techniques can offer.





# The multisensory techniques

# I. Visual techniques



- Text and/or pictures on paper, posters, models, projection screens, computers or flash cards
- Use of color for highlighting, organizing information or imagery
- Graphic organizers, outlining passages
- Student created art, images, text, pictures and video

## II. Auditory techniques



- Books on tape, peer assisted reading, paired reading and computerized text readers
- Video or film with accompanying audio
- Music, song, instruments, speaking, rhymes, chants and language games

# III. Tactile techniques



- Sand trays, raised line paper, textured objects, finger paints and puzzles to improve fine motor skills
- Modeling materials such as clay and sculpting materials
- Using small materials called manipulatives to represent number values to teach math skills

# IV. Kinesthetic techniques



- Games involving jumping rope, clapping or other movements paired with activities while counting and singing songs related to concepts.
- Any large movement activity for students involving dancing, bean bag tossing or other activities involving concepts, rhythmic recall and academic competition such as quizzes, flash card races and other learning games.

# Proust – the Madeleine

## - Taste and smell experience -

- On one winter day, as I was returning home, my mother saw that I am cold and suggested that I should drink a little bit of tea, against my habit. I refused at first and I don't know why, I changed my mind. She asked for one of the short fatty cookies named Madeleine [...]. And very soon, automatically, overwhelmed by the dull day and the sad perspective of tomorrow, I brought to my mouth a teaspoon full of tea in which I dipped a piece of Madeleine. But the very moment the sip blended with the cookie mites touched my palate. I startled, attentive to the extraordinary thing that was happening with me. A charming pleasure came over me, isolated me, without knowing what its cause was. And suddenly the memory appeared. The taste was that of a piece of Madeleine which my aunt Leonie used to offer me after dipping it in the tea infusion, when I used to go to her room on Sunday mornings at Combray to tell her good afternoon.

And...

