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How to identify the various forms of intelligence in your children?



A few decades ago, the word intelligent was the equivalent of intellectual ability or rhymed with giftedness in mathematics and science. However, since the 1980s, this traditional perspective which describes intelligence in a one-dimensional way has gradually been replaced by the revolutionary theory of Dr. Howard Gardner, a psychologist from Harvard University. Indeed, the world of education has been illuminated by Dr. Gardner's thesis of multiple intelligences which states that ¹ intelligence is multifaceted and, subsequently, ² teachers should use a varied pedagogical approach that would allow the expression of these various forms of intelligence among students.

Here is a brief description, according to Dr. Gardner's theory, of the 8 forms of intelligence as well as concrete examples to recognize them.

Linguistic intelligence

Linguistic intelligence allows you to use **language** with ease to express what you think but also to understand others. It is applicable to both spoken and written language. Students who, for example, excel in oral presentations as well as law and education students demonstrate this type of intelligence.

Logical-mathematical intelligence

This type of intelligence is related to the ability to manipulate, analyze, interpret numbers and solve **logical problems** . This attribute is observed in students who excel in mathematics, science as well as computer science students.

Kinesthetic intelligence

Kinesthetic or bodily intelligence is the ability to use the **coordinated movements** of one's body to express oneself in an artistic context (dance) or to perform in an athletic (sport) or professional context. Students in dance and sports studies programs have this type of intelligence.

Musical intelligence

Musical intelligence is the ability to **think in melodious rhythm**, to recognize musical patterns, to interpret them and to create them. In this category of people we find students who are involved in a music program and who play an instrument; composers and musicians are also included.

Visual-spatial intelligence

Visual-spatial intelligence makes it **easy to orient yourself in space** or following geographic movement. Students of architecture, airplane piloting, and boat piloting demonstrate this type of intelligence.

Naturalistic intelligence

Naturalistic intelligence is the ability to analyze, classify and understand **the various components of nature**: plants, animals, minerals, volcanoes. It is present in the student who has an interest in the study of geophysics, plant and animal biology.

Interpersonal intelligence

Interpersonal (social) intelligence is manifested by **understanding the emotions** of others, the ability to establish interpersonal relationships, and good collaboration with people around one. From an academic point of view, committee leaders, psychology or social work students fall into this category.

Intrapersonal intelligence

Intrapersonal intelligence is the ability to understand **oneself** from the point of view of one's feelings, emotions and motivation. This type of intelligence allows you to be aware of your potential, your limits and your strengths. A student who has strong internal motivation and the discipline to achieve their goals falls into this category as well as mentors/life coaches.

How can parents identify forms of intelligence in their children?

³ Individuals have more than one form of intelligence, but there is one that is predominant. Here are 4 means, not exclusive, which would allow parents to identify brilliance in their children.

1) Observe their interests and passions: Children often demonstrate their core intelligence through their interests or passion: drawing, singing, music, dancing, etc. For example, a child who shows a keen interest in music may have developed musical-rhythmic intelligence, while a child who enjoys solving mathematical puzzles may have advanced logical-mathematical intelligence.

2) Personality signals: A very pronounced personality trait at a young age such as ease of expression, of communicating, of making friends is a reflection of linguistic or interpersonal intelligence in the child.

3) Academic indicators : Comfort in a school subject or excellent results obtained are indicators of the presence of operational intelligence. For example, a child with visual-spatial intelligence can achieve excellent results in visual arts for drawing in two or three dimensions.

4) Observe their interactions with nature and the environment : Children with developed naturalistic intelligence may show a keen interest in nature, animals, plants or natural phenomena. They may enjoy exploring nature or engaging in activities related to the environment.

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LMS Consultant Team

About

The mission of the LMS Centre is to help students excel or surpass themselves in math and science through continuous improvement. Provincial and national recognition of the expertise of its team has made it the leader in [tutoring services](#) and the Reference in [learning strategies](#)!

References

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