

What is Multi-Sensory Instruction?

Multi-sensory instruction is using visual, auditory, tactile and kinesthetic (movement) instructional strategies to stimulate learning by accessing multiple brain pathways. We learn through our senses.

By using all senses when teaching, students with various learning styles or disabilities can benefit

due to variety and choice. These strategies can be used individually or for the entire class. The following are examples of strategies for each sense and subject area:

Visual Strategies

- Text and/or pictures on paper, posters, models, or projection screens
- Use of color for highlighting, organizing information or imagery, flash cards with pictures
- Graphic organizers, outlining passages, visualization games and exercises, timelines with symbols and images
- Student created art, images, text, pictures, collages, power point presentations, photo essays, videos
- Use of visual aids, such as graphs, maps, pictures, comic strips, computer websites

Auditory Strategies

- Books on tape, peer assisted reading, paired reading and computerized text readers
- Video or film with accompanying audio, use of iPad, podcasts, YouTube
- Music, song, instruments, speaking, rhymes, chants and language games
- Performances, skits, role plays, panel discussions, interviews, poetry recitals, teaching a lesson

Tactile Strategies

- Tracing using sand/rice trays, raised line paper, textured letters/numbers, fabric or the desktop
- Modeling materials such as clay and sculpting materials, desktop whiteboards and colored markers
- Flip cards on metal rings, magnetic boards and magnetic words/letters/images, board games, puzzles, experiments
- Using manipulative materials to demonstrate number values and math concepts, such as coins, blocks, sticks

Kinesthetic Strategies

- Games involving jumping rope, clapping or other movements paired with activities while counting and singing songs related to concepts
- Any large movement activity involving dancing, bean bag tossing, rhythmic recall

- Academic competitions such as quizzes, flash card races and other learning games
- Hands on, interactive activities, such as role plays, demonstrations, field trips, labs, weighing, measuring
- Skill demonstrations, cooking, musical performances, drama, simulations, treasure hunts, dance, charades

Reading and Spelling Examples

- Create word of the day using playdough
- Ask students to write letters or words in a sand or rice tray while saying the sound or word.
- Use sandpaper or textured letters students can trace with their fingers while saying the sound or word.
- Provide google images to learn vocabulary words.
- Play hangman with a vocabulary/spelling list.
- Use music to teach days of the week.
- Give students 8-10 common household/classroom objects and have them sort by **initial** sound. Use comic strips for reading.
- Have students act out verbs while the rest of the class guesses.
- Engage students in making a Pictionary game to teach key vocabulary words.
- Use magnetic letters or moveable letters to spell words and write sentences.
- Encourage students to ask questions before reading and to connect what they already know to the story. Then make predictions about the story by drawing pictures.

Math Examples

- Give students numbers on cards and ask them to categorize them from lowest to highest, then use to add, subtract, multiply or divide.
- Use recipes to teach measurements and fractions. Bake a cake.
- Create a classroom store in which students can use play money to buy things around the room.
- Use differing blocks, popsicle sticks, coins to demonstrate math concepts.
- Use textured numbers for students to trace, while saying them out loud, then write the number.
- Use acronyms and rhymes to help students memorize the sequence of math problem solving.
- Use classroom walls to teach measurement concepts like area and volume.
- Use colored pieces of paper to differentiate fractional parts of a ruler.

Writing Examples

- Have students cut out words in a sentence or paragraph, then manipulate the words to make new sentences.
- Lay out paragraph ideas using the above strategy in which students can move words or sentences around.
- Give students a set of commonly used sight word cards and have them form sentences with them.
- Provide various graphic organizers to help students organize their thoughts before writing.

- Ask students to interview another student, write about it, then present their findings to the class.
- Put magazine pictures or google images on the board, discuss what students see, then ask students to write a sentence about the picture or describe a scene.
- Use colored glue to write letters, single words or sentences.
- Use magnetic letters to spell words and write sentences.

Refer to these websites for additional ideas:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/multisensory-vocabulary-instruction-guidelines-and-activities>

<http://k6educators.about.com/od/ReadingStrategies/qt/Multisensory-Teaching-Method-To-Reading.htm>

<https://www.pinterest.com/rlaceducators/multisensory-math/>



Minnesota Adult Basic Education
Physical And Nonapparent Disability Assistance