

your child's development
as they **grow**



an age-by-age guide

Pregnancy & Birth ❄️ 0-12 Months ❄️ 1 Year
2-3 Years ❄️ 4-5 Years ❄️ 6-8 Years

SHANNON GREENS, STYLING BY AMANON TRUE, GROOMING BY NOELLE MARINELLI FOR MARK EDWARD INC., SHIRT: OLD NAVY, PANTS: TEA COLLECTION, TRUCK FROM MODERN TOTS, RUG AND CUSHIONS, COMPANY C, BACKGROUND FABRIC, CHELLA TEXTILES.

Learning Styles

Knowing how kids process information can be crucial to their academic success.

By Leslie Garisto Pfaff

Now that your child has a few months of school under his belt, step back and check out whether he's engaged, thriving, and, most important, learning as best he can. This goes for all kids—not just those who are having problems. Every child, from the straight-A superstar to a struggling C student, can benefit if you make sure his study habits are well-suited to his learning style. The fact is, kids absorb information in lots of different ways. By understanding how he learns best, you can give him the tools that will help him master the concepts he'll be tackling now—and going forward.

Book Smart aka "The Verbal Learner"

Notable Traits: Loves to read, has a flair for language, and naturally grasps subjects such as phonics. Chances are she's doing well in most of her subjects—with the possible exception of math.

Work Her Style: To help nail down math concepts, draw on her language strength. "As soon as your child learns something new, have her write it down or explain it to you out loud," says *Parents* advisor Mel Levine, M.D., professor of pediatrics at the University of North Carolina and cochair of the organization All Kinds of Minds. Putting the problem she solved or the technique she just learned into her own words will help cement it in her mind, says Dr. Levine.

The Eyes Have It aka "The Visual Learner"

Notable Traits: Has a passion for art, tends to daydream, and responds best to graphically interesting instructions. "Visual learners rely mainly on their sense of sight to take in information," says Amy James, a former teacher and author of *First Grade Success: Everything You Need to Know to Help Your Child Learn*. Though these kids are often verbal, many think mostly in pictures, so reading may be a struggle.

Work His Style: "The best way to connect your kid to words is to use 'picture methods,'" says Thomas Armstrong, Ph.D., author of *You're Smarter Than You Think: A Kid's Guide to Multiple Intelligences*. If your child is learning to spell a new word, for instance, ask him to create an image that goes along with it: Have him draw spokes inside the *e* in *bike* or whiskers on the *t* in *cat*. If he has to write a paragraph about what he did over the weekend, get him to illustrate it first.



Experts find that boys tend to learn best through movement and touch, while girls learn most effectively by talking and listening.