

**Howard Gardner
9 types of intelligence:**



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HOW WE LEARN AND MAKE MEANING

Jews are known as the People of the Book, but this does not mean that we are limited to books as our only mode of learning. Educators can take advantage of an expansive array of modalities, theories, and educational innovations when designing instruction. With a deep understanding of how people learn best, educators can customize goals and values appropriate to their teaching and to learners' needs. The TaNaKh instructs us: *“Train a child in the way they should go; when they mature, they will not deviate from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). Addressing the multiple intelligences and potential of students can help instructors personalize their instruction, their methods of assessment, and their ability to reach every student.

There are many different ways to shine and a variety of ways in which to contribute. As you journey today through your work as a camp leader and Jewish educator, consider your preferred ways of learning and knowing. How does recognizing your own set of multiple intelligences influence your capacity to learn? How can you take these experiences back to camp to plan for your staff and campers? Authentic education succeeds in its mission when educators honor the idiosyncratic talents and interests of each learner, while maintaining a clear view of common obligations and goals.

1. NATURALIST INTELLIGENCE - “NATURE SMART”

He shall be like a tree planted by waters, sending forth its roots by a stream. It does not sense the coming of heat, its leaves are ever fresh; it has no care in a year of drought, it does not cease to yield fruit. (Jeremiah 17:8)

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. (Albert Einstein)

This type of intelligence describes the human ability to discriminate among living things (plants, animals), as well as our sensitivity to other features of the natural world (clouds, rock formations). This ability was clearly of value in our evolutionary past as hunters, gatherers, and farmers; it continues to be central in such roles as botanist or chef.

2. MUSICAL INTELLIGENCE - “MUSICAL SMART”

Therefore, write down this song and teach it to the people of Israel; put it in their mouths, in order that this song may be My witness against the people of Israel. (Deuteronomy 31:19)

Words still go softly forth towards the unsayable. And music, always new, from palpitating stones. Builds in useless space its godly home. (Rainer Maria Rilke)

Musical intelligence is the capacity to discern pitch, rhythm, timbre, and tone. This intelligence enables us to recognize, create, reproduce, and reflect on music, as demonstrated by composers, conductors, musicians, vocalists, and sensitive listeners. Interestingly, there is often an affective connection between music and the emotions; mathematical (see below) and musical intelligences may share common thinking processes. Young adults with this kind of intelligence often sing or drum to themselves. They are usually quite aware of sounds others may miss.

3. LOGICAL-MATHEMATICAL INTELLIGENCE - “NUMBER/REASONING SMART”

If one would keep a daily accounting of the traits that arise in every given situation, after a few weeks he will be able to tell which trait manifests itself most often. (Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe)

There are two possible outcomes: if the result confirms the hypothesis, then you've made a measurement. If the result is contrary to the hypothesis, then you've made a discovery. (Enrico Fermi)

Logical-mathematical intelligence is the ability to calculate, quantify, consider propositions and hypotheses, and carry out complete mathematical operations. It enables us to perceive relationships and connections; to use abstract, symbolic thought; sequential reasoning skills; and inductive and deductive thinking patterns. Logical intelligence is usually well-developed in mathematicians, scientists, and detectives. Young adults with lots of logical intelligence are interested in patterns, categories, and relationships. They are drawn to arithmetic problems, strategy games, and experiments.

4. EXISTENTIAL INTELLIGENCE - “SPIRIT SMART”

Awe is more than an emotion; it is a way of understanding. Awe is itself an act of insight into a meaning greater than ourselves. Awe is a way of being in rapport with the mystery of all reality. (Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel)

I don't think that faith, whatever you're being faithful about, really can be scientifically explained. And I don't want to explain this whole life business through truth, science. There's so much mystery. There's so much awe. (Jane Goodall)

Existential intelligence highlights one's sensitivity and capacity to tackle deep questions about human existence, such as the meaning of life, how it is that we are here, and what happens when we die.

5. INTERPERSONAL INTELLIGENCE - “PEOPLE SMART”

Hillel says: Do not separate yourself from the community. Do not believe in yourself until the day of your death. Do not judge your fellow until you come to his place. Do not say something that cannot be heard, for in the end it will be heard. (Pirke Avot 2:4)

In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be.... This is the inter-related structure of reality. (Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Interpersonal intelligence is the ability to understand and interact effectively with others. It involves effective verbal and nonverbal communication, the ability to note distinctions among others, sensitivity to the moods and temperaments of others, and the ability to entertain multiple perspectives. Teachers, social workers, actors, and politicians all exhibit interpersonal intelligence. Young adults with this kind of intelligence are leaders among their peers, are good at communicating, and seem to understand others' feelings and motives.

6. BODILY-KINESTHETIC INTELLIGENCE - “BODY SMART”

Is learning greater or action greater? Rabbi Tarfon answered, action is greater. Rabbi Eli'ezer responded and said, learning is greater. Then someone else responded to both of them and said that learning is greater, as learning leads to action. (Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Kiddushin 40b)

Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics. (Jane Addam)

Bodily kinesthetic intelligence is the capacity to manipulate objects and use a variety of physical skills. This intelligence also involves a sense of timing and the perfection of skills through mind-body union. Athletes, dancers, surgeons, and craftspeople exhibit well-developed bodily kinesthetic intelligence.

7. LINGUISTIC INTELLIGENCE - “WORD SMART”

“Make an opening for light in the ark (teiva).” (Genesis 6:16) The biblical word for “ark” also means “word.” If we read the text in this way, we learn that when people speak, their thoughts should enlighten their speech. (Baal Shem Tov)

The development of language is part of the development of the personality, for words are the natural means of expressing thoughts and establishing understanding between people. (Maria Montessori)

Linguistic intelligence is the ability to think in words and to use language to express and appreciate complex meanings. Linguistic intelligence allows us to understand the order and meaning of words and to apply meta-linguistic skills to reflect on our use of language. Linguistic intelligence is the most widely shared human competence and is evident in poets, novelists, journalists, and effective public speakers. Young adults with this kind of intelligence enjoy writing, reading, telling stories, or doing crossword puzzles.

8. INTRA-PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE - “SELF SMART”

Hillel says, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?” (Avot 1:14)

There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self. (Aldous Huxley)

Intra-personal intelligence is the capacity to understand oneself and one's thoughts and feelings, and to use this knowledge in planning and creating a direction for one's life. Intra-personal intelligence involves not only an appreciation of the self, but also of the human condition. It is evident in psychologists, spiritual leaders, and philosophers. These young adults may be shy. They are very aware of their own feelings and are self-motivated.

9. SPATIAL INTELLIGENCE - “PICTURE SMART”

And Moshe said to the Israelites: See, the Lord has singled out by name Bezalel, son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. God has endowed him with a divine spirit of skill, ability, and knowledge in every kind of craft and has inspired him to make designs for work in gold, silver, and copper, to cut stones for setting and to carve wood—to work in every kind of designer's craft. (Exodus 35:30-33)

I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for. (Georgia O'Keeffe)

Spatial intelligence is the ability to think in three dimensions. Core capacities include mental imagery, spatial reasoning, image manipulation, graphic and artistic skills, and an active imagination. Sailors, pilots, sculptors, painters, and architects all exhibit spatial intelligence. Young adults with this kind of intelligence may be fascinated with mazes or jigsaw puzzles, or spend free time drawing or daydreaming.