

# Tips for Parents and Teachers of Right Brained Learners

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1. This learner appreciates metaphors and examples.
2. S/he appreciates getting to "do" something as part of learning process.
3. S/he appreciates knowing "why" they need to know this information and how they will use it in life.
4. In elementary school allowing them to sit on an exercise ball at their desk stimulates the inner ear (providing focus and emotional grounding).
5. In middle school these learners may need to stand at their desk or utilize objects like stress balls. There are also mats they can sit on that help them "move" without being a nuisance. At home, parents can allow student to sit on ball during homework.
6. Allow these learners, if possible, to sit in back or along the side of classrooms so their fidgeting doesn't distract others.
7. Allow these learners to sit on the side of the room that corresponds to their dominant eye, with access to their dominant ear.
8. If possible, don't face these learners towards windows or distracting students.
9. Help s/he learn math facts and spelling words, vocabulary etc. by utilizing flash cards in the upper left field of vision while they say the item aloud. Right brain learners need more repetition.
10. Instructions given orally would be better if they included a visual handout or visual cue.
11. If the learner has auditory processing issues in relation to writing, they have challenges taking notes given orally. Lectures can be difficult for these kids if the lecture doesn't include many of the senses.
12. When doing writing or other school projects, parents can assist the student by talking them through the big picture the student has expressed, and teaching them how to outline and break the work down. Teacher awareness of this challenge can help them be a partner toward this goal.

13. Parents should consider offering tutoring in language arts and mathematics during the summer so that information is not lost. For these learners it becomes "out of sight out of mind" and they need more repetition
  14. In class, allowing these students to put up a cubbie or work in an office/private area during class work will help minimize distraction.
  15. Parents can encourage exercises at home that reverse the fight/flight or "deer in the headlights" process that happen for these learners. Teachers can encourage water, breaks and/or other tools that work for that student.
- \* The typical student seen in special education is the child who is right brained, kinesthetic with poor focus. Oftentimes they do great once out of school in fields where they can be big picture thinkers or very kinesthetic (emergency medicine, fire fighters, artistic careers, construction, culinary). Working with this profile of a student can be very challenging in a left brain linear academic system and also for life skills.

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