Sensory Intelligence®
The impact of sensory processing on thinking and learning
- Dr Annemarie Lombard
“The senses are gateways to intelligence. There is nothing in intelligence which did not first pass through the senses first”

Aristotle
The impact of sensory processing on thinking and learning

Content

• From sense to think – the neuroscience link
• Sensory thresholds – diversity for learning
• How do we “think” with the senses?
Thinking Brain
20% brain activity

Reason
Think
Learn
Perform

Feeling Brain
80% brain activity

Conscious
Controlled
Calculated

Unconscious
Uncontrolled
Intuitive

Attention
Emotion
Behaviour

Gut
Habits
Preferences
Comfort levels
Thinking Brain
20% brain activity

Feeling Brain
80% brain activity

Reason
Think
Learn
Perform

IQ

EQ

Sensory

Attention
Emotion
Behaviour

Gut
Habits
Preferences
Comfort levels
The 7 senses

- See
- Hear
- Touch
- Smell
- Taste
- Movement: Vestibular
- Movement: Proprioception

Information senses – primary for learning

Social senses – primary for relationships & social skills

Regulation senses – primary for attention & concentration
From sense to think

Think
(Cortex)

Feel
(midbrain)

Sense
(lower brain)
Content

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The impact of sensory processing on thinking and learning
Sensory thresholds

• Different styles of processing stimuli
• Nature versus nurture
  – Neurological thresholds vs upbringing
• Low thresholds – sensitive to sensory stimuli
• High thresholds - seeking stimuli
• Complete the free sensory quiz on our website: www.sensoryintelligence.co.za
Sensory Seekers

Medium Thresholds

Sensory Avoiders

Need More Stimuli

Need Less Stimuli
Content

- From sense to think – the neuroscience link
- Sensory thresholds – diversity for learning
- How do we “think” with the senses?

The impact of sensory processing on thinking and learning
More

Visual

Less
More

Touch

Less
Less

Move

More
Use the senses to

• Profile learners to determine their individual needs
• Identify sensory overload in the environment
• Align the environment to the learners’ needs
• WHY
  – Release thinking capacity
  – Boost learning
Questions?
If we extend our senses, then, consequently, we will extend our knowledge. It's really very basic.

-Neil Harbisson