



Barbara Prashnig

5 Ways to Save Money Through LEARNING STYLES



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by Barbara Prashnig



How much is your child's future school success worth to you? Would you buy them electronic gadgets, educational software, fancy Cuisenaire Rods, private tuition, wall posters, learning games?

Most parents are eager to support their children in their learning activities but for various reasons do not always have the time and expertise to choose what would really be useful and help to achieve sustainable learning success.

Introduction

Based on my own not so pleasant experiences during my schooling years, learning problems with my daughter during high school and due to my international work with parents, teachers and students for over twenty years, I have experienced first-hand how well-meaning learning support is often incredibly expensive and unfortunately can have little or no effect on a student's academic performance. Quite on the contrary: mismatched learning support actually creates more stress, more insecurity and desperation, often leading to frustration, disappointment, lost motivation and in the worst to learning refusal, giving up on academic learning altogether. I discovered how many students with good intelligence, good brains and many skills became at-risk students who finally became drop-outs. How sad, too many switched off from school learning and were lost for life-long learning.

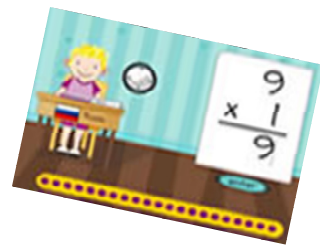
But it doesn't have to be this way! Had I known then what I know now and have known since I began to work with Learning Styles I would have been able to cruise through school and Mathematics wouldn't have nearly killed my love for learning. The same goes for my daughter who suffered a lot during her high school years because neither her teachers nor I myself being a teacher understood her natural, unconventional Learning Style. So she became an intelligent underachiever, staying way below her true potential. Nobody was trained to understand unconventional style features. When a student was 'learning different' – meaning they did not want to or couldn't learn in traditional ways but were not allowed to do it 'their' way, they became stigmatised, were called lazy, disinterested, created discipline problems, were punished or worse – expelled from school.



To avoid such negative developments and to prevent you from investing in unsuitable learning support techniques, unnecessary learning tools or ineffective tuition, we have put together these five methods to give you powerful strategies for sustainable learning support, fitting different style needs and learning preferences:

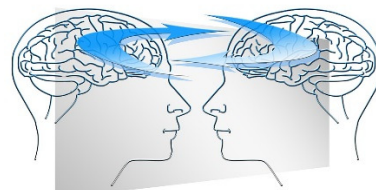
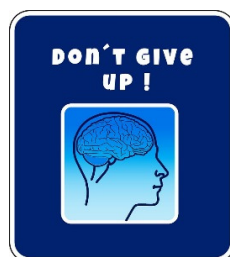
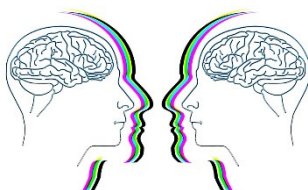
1. If you know your child's Learning Style, you won't waste money on fashionable learning tools that don't help

A child who does not learn well with a computer will not benefit from even the best educational software. A child whose greatest strength is learning alone will not learn well with a tutor or other classmates. Wall posters are great, but only for those who learn in a visual manner. Even colourful reading programs will not lead to success if your child needs to use their hands and involve the whole body in reading.



Learning Style is the way in which someone learns best, consisting of all their strengths, flexibilities and non-preferences regarding information intake (input) through their senses, their physical needs during the learning process, the learning environment, the social groupings and their attitudes towards learning.

The younger children are, the more right-brain dominant they are; therefore they need more holistic, right-brain teaching methods because their analytical brain-processing skills are not yet developed and in many people (research estimates approximately two thirds of the Western population) holistic brain-processing remains the preferred thinking style throughout life. Most people can apply analytical thinking processes if they have to, but this makes learning harder and information storage much more difficult for them.

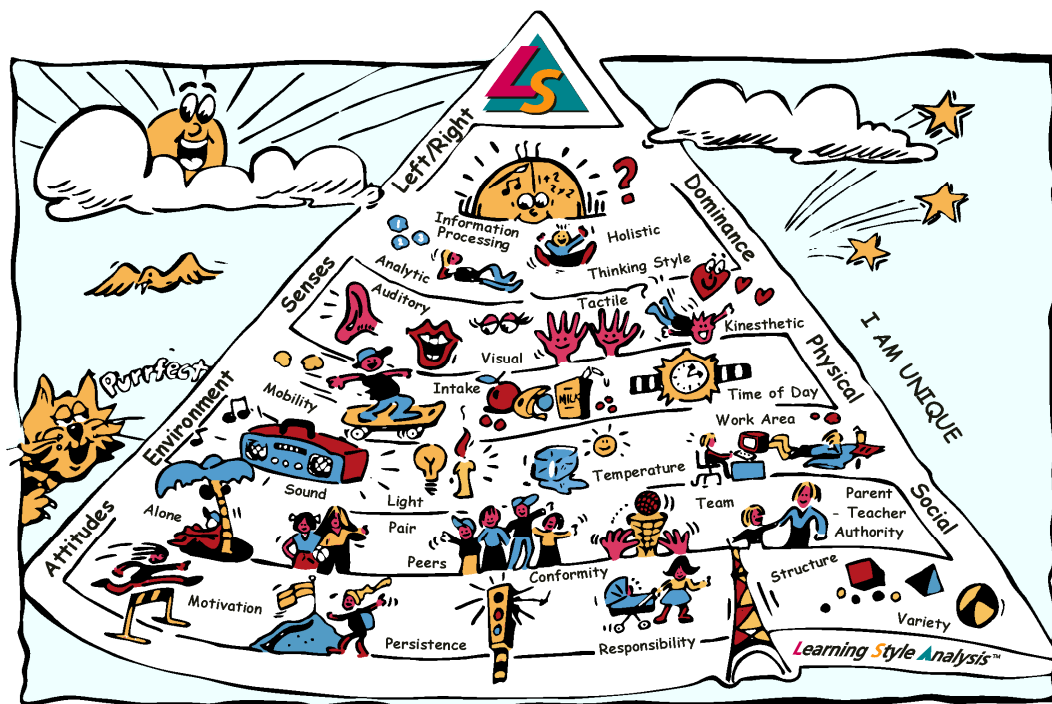


Tactile Learning Style Tools wrap-arounds & learning circle



However, if a school system, which is based on analytical teaching methods, forces young people to do all their learning analytically (as this is the preferred teaching style, especially in academic subjects in most of our high schools) the result is that such a system sets up students for failure - especially those whose brain-processing is strongly holistic.

What does your child really need in order to learn best? To understand their personal Learning Style as assessed through our [Learning Style Analysis \(LSA\)](#) instruments for different age groups based on this LSA Pyramid Model:



2. If you know your child's Learning Style, you won't waste money on expensive private tuition

Have you ever wondered why learning problems increase in high schools and the highest failure rate occurs in academic/scientific subjects? Is it because these subjects are difficult, require 'higher' thinking skills, special abilities? Or, as teachers want us to believe because students are plain and simple lazy, don't listen, have no motivation and are not suited for academic studies anyway. And all that despite the fact that initially students actually WANT to perform well, study like crazy and still fall behind or fail. More than ever parents are desperately searching for ways and means to help their children achieve better results in tests and exams, often a burden to their finances due to the high cost and sacrificing peaceful family life too. Yet, school success is not guaranteed and the final years in high school can become extremely stressful and ultimately switching off students from learning.



Why is that so? Let me shed light on this enigma:

It is a well-researched fact that there is a mismatch between teaching methods and Learning Styles. The contributing factor is that failing students are generally holistic (right-brain-dominant) learners but teachers of academic subjects are strongly analytical (left-brain dominant) in their approaches, more so in high schools than in primary schools (and even more in tertiary education). They cannot imagine that their specific subject area could be studied and presented holistically, in a more right-brain, non-sequential way. It is just not in their thinking! Such teachers also seem to have great difficulties in accepting that there is more than one way to learn anything, because due to their own sequential thinking processes, analytics believe 'their' way is the best and the only one.

And that false belief causes holistic students to fail, mainly in analytical subjects such as mathematics, science, economics, etc, which causes boredom, stress and frustration, has a negative effect on their overall performance, and seems to be the main reason for behaviour and learning problems, which then lead to social problems among young adolescents and often quitting school.



It doesn't have to be like that, because when parents become familiar with the Learning Style needs of their children, students understand how they can learn best and teachers find new ways of reaching holistic students with appropriate teaching methods, then underachievement will be a thing of the past and all students

If school cannot or will not provide new suitable approaches for 'learning different' students, then at least at the home front a knowledge of Learning Styles will give parents a better chance of supporting their children according to their true needs and private tuition can be reduced to a minimum, focussing on the most difficult contents, delivered in a way that matches the student's Learning Style best. You'll see the difference in their learning motivation and success in a few weeks' time. Guaranteed!

Do you want to know whether your child has more analytic or holistic learning tendencies?

Find out by using our professional [Learning Style Analysis \(LSA\)](#) instruments.

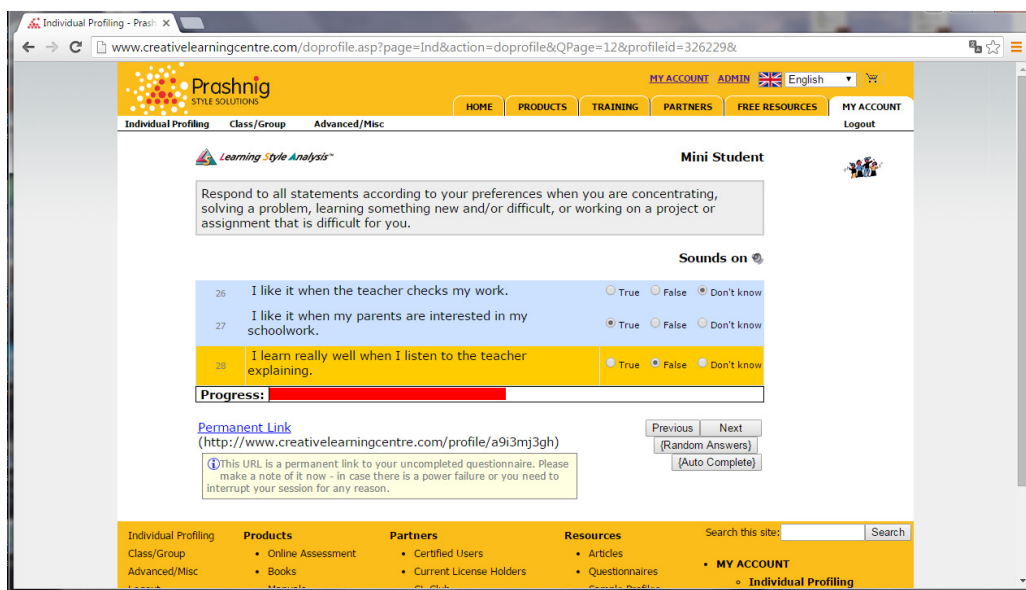


3. If you know your child's Learning Style, you won't waste money on motivational rewards

Generally children want to be rewarded for their efforts. BUT: if you as a parent don't know how they tick and what truly motivates them, you could be spending a lot of money on the wrong things and still not get the desired results from your son or daughter, be it in doing homework, exam or test preparation, or doing household chores.

Depending on their overall style, some children will be **externally motivated** in their studies by a promise of a treat, gift or outing, a special gadget, and they will go out of their way to collect stars or reward points, especially while they are young. Others are **internally motivated** and will not respond to the carrot-or-stick scenario. They want to learn because they are hungry for learning, sometimes gathering information for information's sake. You can find out if your child is externally or internally motivated by letting them do the LSA online questionnaire.

All LSA instruments are age appropriate, written in very simple language and can be complete in 20 – 30 minutes. Students love these questionnaires because it gives them interesting information about themselves.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Prashnig Learning Style Analysis questionnaire. The page title is "Individual Profiling - Prashnig" and the URL is "www.creativelearningcentre.com/doprofile.asp?page=Ind&action=doprofile&QPage=12&profileid=326229&". The page features a yellow header with the Prashnig logo and navigation tabs: HOME, PRODUCTS, TRAINING, PARTNERS, FREE RESOURCES, and MY ACCOUNT. Below the header, there are tabs for "Individual Profiling", "Class/Group", and "Advanced/Misc". The main content area is titled "Mini Student" and contains instructions: "Respond to all statements according to your preferences when you are concentrating, solving a problem, learning something new and/or difficult, or working on a project or assignment that is difficult for you." There are three statements with radio button options for "True", "False", and "Don't know":
26. I like it when the teacher checks my work. (True, False, Don't know)
27. I like it when my parents are interested in my schoolwork. (True, False, Don't know)
28. I learn really well when I listen to the teacher explaining. (True, False, Don't know)
A progress bar is shown below the statements. At the bottom, there is a "Permanent Link" section with a URL and a note: "This URL is a permanent link to your uncompleted questionnaire. Please make a note of it now - in case there is a power failure or you need to interrupt your session for any reason." Navigation buttons for "Previous", "Next", "(Random Answers)", and "(Auto Complete)" are also visible.

In the Profile you will then see what their current learning **Motivation** is and in addition to that style element also their degree of **Persistence** and if they need **Structure, Guidance and Routine** or not.

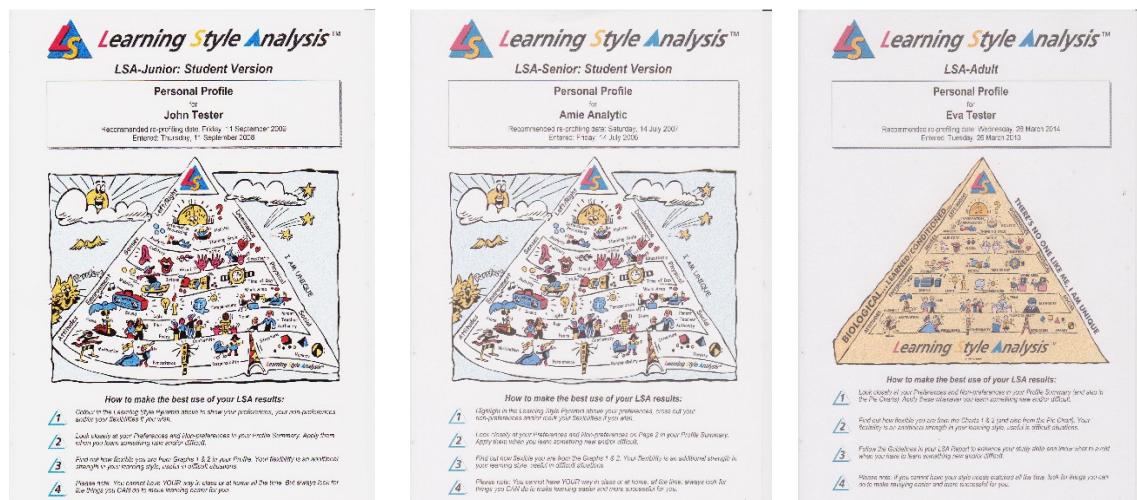
With such in-depth knowledge it is easy to choose rewards which make them feel good and will fire up their motivation. And this means spending your money wisely and appropriately. You will be pleasantly surprised by the positive effects such investments will have.

4. Get the LSA Complete Version

All our LSA instruments for children and young people come in three versions: the **Student Version** has the Report for the child, the **Parent Version** gives advice for home learning, and the **Teacher Version** contains information about a student's learning needs in class.

If you want to see how LSA Profiles look like, you can choose from the following options according to the age of your child:

- [LSA-Mini](#) (5 – 10 years)
- [LSA-Junior](#) (9 – 13 years)
- [LSA-Swift](#) (13 – 17 years)
- [LSA-Senior](#) (16 – 18 years)



There is also an LSA instrument available for older students in formal education:

- [LSA- Adult](#) (18+ years)
Particularly suitable for re-entry to academic studies, for the 'learning-damaged' who still want to continue their education and for older people who aspire to senior study programs

This is how students can get their own LSA Profile after purchasing the relevant software product:

- Respond to online questionnaire
- Download personal LSA Profile
- Discuss and interpret results with parents
- Follow recommendations in the Personal LSA Report
- Apply new learning strategies at home
- Share LSA results with teachers
- Ask for accommodating learning style preferences in class
- Observe increased motivation and learning success

If these steps are followed it is possible for students to reduce school stress, eliminate learning difficulties and improve academic achievement.

5. Obtain a Home Package Instead



It's the old paradox: the more you buy, the more you save. Instead of only getting an LSA Profile for your daughter or son, why not purchase our [Home Package](#)?

These are the special features of the Home Package:

- it contains analysis software for **three children** and **two adults**,
- it is a starter pack - ideal for most families as an entry into the world of Learning Styles,
- including Learning Style Analysis instruments (**3 LSA-Mini Complete**) for children and
- Working Style Analysis instruments (**2 WSA-Employee Version**) for Adults,
- allows detailed insights into personal learning abilities and individual Potentials.

Learning Style Analysis™
HOME PACKAGE

Consists of:

- 3 LSA-Mini Student profiles
- 2 WSA Employee profiles for parents
- + LSA Interpretation Manual

Creative Learning Systems
www.creativelearningcentre.com

Working Style Analysis™
WSA-Corporate: Manager Version

Personal Profile
for
Jane Tester
Recommended re-profiling date: Wednesday, 9 February 2011
Entered: Tuesday, 9 February 2010

How to make the best use of Jane's WSA results:

1. The WSA Pyramid above shows all elements of a working style. Feel free to mark Jane's most important preferences, non-preferences and/or her flexibilities.
2. Pay particular attention to Jane's Preferences and Non-preferences on Page 2 in her Profile Summary. She should apply them when she concentrates on something new and/or difficult.
3. Find out from the Graphs 1 & 2 how flexible Jane is in her working style. Her flexibility is an additional strength in her style, particularly useful in challenging work situations.
4. Please note: the WSA is not a test, therefore it cannot be "passed" or "failed". There are no "right" or "wrong" results, only style differences between human beings.

How is such a family package helpful?

In every family group, community, extended family or whenever people of different generations are living together and school-aged children are concerned, it is absolutely necessary to understand each other and to be tolerant. This is especially true for the areas of school, homework and learning - often friction points, fraught with conflict, stress and frustration.

However, to solve such conflicts, reduce stress and to give children meaningful support in learning is only possible if each individual knows their own learning or working style, as well as the learning style tendencies of the other family members, understands and accepts them.

Learning and Working Styles are very complex and multifaceted, and can be discovered and described only with reliable instruments. Therefore, the Family Package has something for everyone - WSA Profiles for the adults (not only for parents but also for grandparents) who take care of children's learning as well as LSA profiles for the children themselves.

LSA Profiles provide valuable information and practical advice on how children can develop their potential and learn best - not only in school but also at home. LSA Profiles describe strategies how adults in the family can provide individually tailored assistance for the learning process and WSA profiles give insights into the way parents work and learn best.

With these proven and reliable assessment instruments there is no more reason to waste money on fashionable learning tools that don't help, on expensive private tuition or on motivational rewards which do not serve its purpose. You now know a much better tool to improve learning at home – with LSA and knowledge about style diversity!

I'm proud to say that this is an internationally used and proven way to solve your children's and students' learning problems in the shortest possible time. Try it out and see for yourself! But most of all: enjoy doing it!

