

GENETIC BRAIN DOMINANCE PROFILING & LEARNING STYLES

by Nikki Bush

In many of my parenting talks and workshops, I urge you to get to know your child better in order to unlock them, help them to love learning and to help the teachers who teach your child. Understanding your child's learning style and their genetic brain dominance profile is something I highly recommend you do in this regard. It is a completely non-invasive process for your child and extremely enlightening for you. You can find a list of consultants at the end of this document, however, below is an excerpt from Section 2 of my book [*Future-proof Your Child*](#) (Penguin, 2008) to give you some background:

LEARNING STYLES

By the time your child is ready for primary school, you may have a good idea of his or her natural intelligences and preferred learning style. Do you have a visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learner on your hands? Is your child dominantly left- or right-brained? Is your child logical and orderly, or creative and imaginative, or a daydreamer? What's your child's concentration like? Is he or she outgoing or reserved? For more detailed and helpful information in this regard, you can have your child's dominance profile tested. It's a quick process that does not require your child to draw or write anything, but it will give you valuable information about how he or she takes in information, processes it and uses it. It can give you excellent guidance about the type of education or school system that may best suit your child, as well as the most effective study methods for your child, and much more.

Children are born with a predisposition to receive information in a certain way. They take in information through their senses and, in every child, some senses will be stronger than others. A child's preferred sensory modality will determine his or her natural learning style – whether the child is a visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learner. The benefit of understanding your child's learning style is that it will help you, the parent, to present information to him or her in a suitable way. It will assist you both to motivate and discipline your child appropriately. This understanding will also enable you to protect and nurture the relationship you have with your child instead of becoming frustrated, exasperated or angry.

How a child *receives* information about his or her environment and the workings of the world is actually more important than how his or her brain *processes* it because the reception determines the quality of information that the child's brain works with. Here are some guidelines to help you to determine your child's natural learning style. Some of these clues will be obvious from babyhood, while others will only reveal themselves as your child moves into toddlerhood and early childhood. Some children are clearly strongly dominant in one sensory modality, while others may utilise a combination of modalities.

A good teacher presents the same information in all three ways in a single lesson in order to capture the attention of every different learning style represented in the class. When executed effectively, this is one of the benefits of true outcomes-based education.

If information is attractive to your child's learning style, learning becomes fun and your child will have a better chance of grasping new information, understanding it, storing it, and being able to retrieve it for later use. In other words, if you present information to children in their preferred way of learning, it is more meaningful to them. When information has meaning, it is easier to store it in the long-term memory.

DOMINANCE PROFILES

Information-processing theorists focus on the input of information, how information is stored in the brain, and how it is retrieved when it is needed to solve problems. They are also concerned with attention, concentration and memory. Certainly they all agree that every child thinks differently and solves problems differently, depending on his or her age, maturity and unique wiring.

Most people think of brain dominance as a person being right- or left-brained, and dominance per se as being left- or right-handed. But there is a great deal more to the subject of dominance than is first evident. In fact, the genetic brain dominance profile of a child has a definite impact on his or her personality and behaviour. It also determines how the child will take in, process and act on information for the rest of his or her life.

Your brain dominance profile is determined by many variables, such as eyes, ears, hands, feet and brain parts. A qualified profilologist can perform quick, simple kinesiology tests and put together a detailed report that makes this information accessible and easy to understand and use. This is a very helpful tool for parents and teachers. Understanding your child's profile can help you to unlock his or her potential in a most meaningful way.

A host of other profiling techniques exist, which can be useful in understanding and guiding your child. These are beyond the scope of this book, but information on these techniques is easily available. It's always an interesting and a good idea to test them out on yourself too!

- *The Seven Intelligences Profile and the Metacognitive Mapping Approach® in Switch On Your Brain* by Dr Caroline Leaf, Tafelberg, Cape Town, 2005. www.switchonyourbrain.co.za
- *Genetic Brain Organisation Profiling*, Dr Annette Lotter & Associates www.eduprofile.co.za
- *Brain Dominance Profiling*, Dr Melodie de Jager www.mindmoves.co.za
- Also see her books *Brain Gym for All* and *Mind Moves*
- *The Neethling Brain Instrument®*, Dr Kobus Neethling www.solutionsfinding.com
- *The Enneagram* www.enneagram.net. *The Enneagram Understanding Yourself And The Others In Your Life* (Harper Collins Publishers, NY, 1988) by Helen Palmer and *The Wisdom of the Enneagram: The Complete Guide to Psychological and Spiritual Growth for the Nine Personality Types* (New York: Bantam, 1999) by Don Richard Riso and Russ Hudson.
- *The Five Love Languages of Children* (Northfield Publishing, Chicago. 1992, 1995) by Dr Gary Chapman www.fivelovelanguages.com
- *Marcus Buckingham's StrengthsFinder Profile* www.strengthsfinder.com. *Now Discover Your Strengths* (Pocket Books, Simon & Schuster, UK, 2005) by Marcus Buckingham & Donald O'Clifton.

nikki bush

Creative Parenting Expert

FINDING A CONSULTANT

There are a number of different individuals and consultancies that work in this field. I have had personal experience with Dr Melodie de Jager as well as Dr Annette Lotter.

Mind Moves Institute

For Mind Moves consultants trained by Dr Melodie de Jager click here or phone +2721 4613716 or email institute@mindmoves.co.za. Check if a written report is included in the price. If not, do ask for one, even if you have to pay an additional fee for it as over time you will forget what has been said and this information is useful for the rest of their lives.

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I have had personal experience with:

- Melodie de Jager, Johannesburg, 011 8885434, melodiedj@worldonline.co.za
- Michaela de Gier, Durban, 074 101 2616, michaela.degier@mindmoves.co.za
- Liz Victor, Westville, 082 876 7791, liz@toptots.co.za
- Ruan de Jager for adult and corporate profiling at www.mindynamix.com and email ruan.dejager@mindynamix.co.za

Eduprofile (Dr Annette Lotter)

To contact Edu-profilogists trained by Dr Annette Lotter click here or phone 082 974 6654 or email info@eduprofile.co.za. They offer a wide range of services that vary in price and usually include a written report:

- Profile Age 3 – Grade 7
- Profile Grade 8 – Grade 12
- Adult profile
- Careers guidance
- Aptitude test Grade 9 – 12
- Locus of control test Grade 9 to adult
- Full careers guidance package (profile, aptitude and locus of control)
- Sports report age 3 – Grade 7
- Sports report Grade 8 – 12
- Sports report adult
- Study skills
- School readiness testing

I have had personal experience with:

- Salome Higgins, Fourways, Bryanston, Northern suburbs, 083 307 9244
- Sarah Goosen, Bryanston, 082 780 8508
- Jenny Rose, Edenvale, Bedfordview and Sandton, 083 256 6292

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