

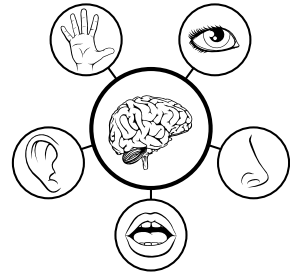
# Multi-sensory approach



## Context

Multisensory learning is the idea that individuals learn better if they are taught using more than one sense. Multisensory learning involves visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile skills. Other senses involved in teaching can include smell, taste and balance.

In online learning, multisensory teaching may seem more complicated, if unsupervised, but there are techniques that can be implemented and allow learners to interact with their sense.



## Advantages of multisensory learning

- Improves memory by providing redundancy, reinforcement and using the whole brain.
- Works for all kinds of learning styles: visual, auditory and kinesthetic.
- Reduces cognitive load and promotes dual coding – more information is processed if split into and presented by several channels.
- New multisensory associations in the brain can develop rapidly. Even alters responses in unisensory areas of the brain.
- Neural plasticity – The brain's ability to reorganize itself and form new connections throughout life – is highly enhanced, especially if the multisensory learning starts early in the child's life.
- Increases concentration and focus.
- Develops critical thinking – a sense of cause and effect.
- Promotes mental and physical relaxation. Stress drops dramatically.
- Increases opportunity for choice and self determination and improves communication and sharing.



# Multisensory techniques

## Visual

- Text and/or pictures on paper, posters, models, projection screens, or computers,
- Film, video, multi-image media, augmentative picture communication cards or devices, fingerspelling and sign language,
- Use of color for highlighting, organizing information, or imagery,
- Graphic organizers, and outlining passages,
- Student-created art, images, text, pictures, and video.

**For example:** a brainstorming session that results in a visual map linking ideas can be a very effective outline for a future written research paper.

## Auditory

- Computerized text readers, augmentative communication devices; auditory trainers; hearing aids; audiobooks, podcasts, and peer-assisted reading,
- Video, film, or multi-image media with accompanying audio,
- Music, song, instruments, speaking, rhymes, chants, and language games.

**For example:** Playing an audiobook of a story to introduce characters, narratives and literary analytical skills.

## Tactile

- Using small objects, like cuisinaire rods, to represent number values to teach math skills,
- Use of modeling materials such as clay and sculpting materials, paper mache to create models,
- Use of sand trays, raised line paper, textured objects, sensory putty, finger paints, and puzzles to develop fine motor skills,
- Use letter tiles, coins, dominoes, poker chips.

## Kinesthetic

- Games involving jumping rope, clapping or other movements paired with activities while counting and singing songs related to concepts.
- Dancing, bean bag tossing or other activities involving concepts, rhythmic recall and academic competition such as quizzes, flash card races and other learning games.



**For example:** Air writing (also called sky writing) reinforces the sound each letter makes through muscle memory. It can also help reinforce commonly confused letter forms like **b** and **d**.

Kids use two fingers as a pointer (keeping elbows and wrists straight) to write letters in the air. They say the sound each letter makes as they write it.



## Resources

- How to Make Multisensory Teaching Materials  
<https://www.verywellfamily.com/make-multisensory-teaching-materials-2162327>
- What are Multisensory Teaching Techniques?  
<https://www.lexiconreadingcenter.org/what-is-multisensory-teaching-techniques/>
- 9 Advantages of Multisensory Learning  
<https://www.nischalsworld.com/blog/9-advantages-multisensory-learning/>