

Dumfries and Galloway Council: Schools Services

Sheuchan Primary School using Learning Styles in classroom practise

After attending the Primary Conference in November 2004 all our staff returned wanting to put into practise ideas put forward by Barbara Prashnig on diversity in education. All staff discussed with pupils what kind of a learning environment they worked best in. Staff started to change classrooms accordingly. We looked at seating, lighting and temperature. Sound had already been taken into account in the form of classical music when necessary. However we did not give thought to the children who preferred to work in silence. As we were already employing the use of multiple intelligences this was a good progression in trying to teach the way children learn.

In February two members of staff attended an In Service course with Chris Dickinson, of Network Press looking into the use of Learning Style Analysis in school. On return we delivered a collegiate activity time programme to all staff who were very interested and wanted to take this further. The decision was made to give Learning Style Analysis to next years P6 and P7. These were completed in June 2005. When we returned to school in August staff discussed the analysis with their pupils as part of our "getting to know you" fortnight. The children were very interested and excited to see themselves in a different light and were ready to share this information with parents. From this we arranged an Upper School Parent and Child meeting. Parents arrived and we discussed the profiles and explained the purpose behind them. Letting parents know that the profile is useful for them and helps us to ensure that the correct conditions are given to allow maximum use of learning time which we can get from the group profile. . We have had good feedback from this meeting, many saying that homework would be far less stressful now that they understood that not all people learn in the same way. Staff have already asked if this can be developed further down the school and as such we will be continuing next year with P5 and P6. The profiles have formed a large part of our new Learning Logs, which is our main link with parents. They will also figure in our Personal Learning Planning which will link in with Learning Logs next year.