

Personal Theory of Learning

Kate Orr

I believe that learning is actively taking in new information either by experience, by teaching, or by individually seeking out the information. I believe that learning can be purposeful or it can be unintentional. There will be many times when people experience new things without consciously realizing it or make a connection unintentionally, which would both be examples of unintentional learning. I believe that when learning has occurred, the individual is changed. I see there being many ways that an individual can learn. I believe that an individual can experience something new in their life and take in that new information so that they will have learned from it. I believe that people can also learn by having someone wiser instructing them in new ways to do things or about new concepts to be understood. I also believe that people can learn on their own by actively seeking out new information either by reading, watching, listening, or doing. I believe that everyone learns throughout the entirety of his or her life and that learning is a culmination of all of the above learning methods.

I believe that learning occurs differently in different settings and can be temporary or permanent depending on the setting, the method of learning, and the individual. Many times individuals will forget that they learned something and need to be reminded, but then there will also be times where there is no recollection at all of content previously taught to that individual. I believe that is the difference between permanent learning, being able to recall something even if a little help is needed, and temporary learning, not being able to recall something at all after a longer period of time. I believe that children learn at home and at school, but typically in different ways. At both settings a child has a teacher, either by profession or in the role of parent. In the past, I believe that students predominantly learned through experience at home and through an instructor at school. However, I believe that a mix of both methods is most beneficial in both settings. Students in school should learn by experience as well as directly instructed by a teacher. I believe that students learn in a deeper and more permanent sense when they can relate to the content being taught to them, are able to experience whatever it is they are learning, and are given the opportunity to display their learning in a real-world way. I believe that learning is achieved in its deepest sense when an individual has had the opportunity to experience new information multiple times and in multiple ways. I believe that learning is more temporary when the individual interacts with new information in only one way (reading, listening, experiencing, doing...) or only one time. Permanent learning is what individuals should strive for when they are actively looking to learn. I also believe that students learn in a more permanent way when they have adequate time to interact with the new information. I believe that unintentional learning is just as important as intentional learning throughout ones lifetime and individuals should always be open to learning something new. I also believe that students are more likely to learn if they have motivation to do so. I believe that students are less likely to learn when they feel forced to do so, when they are not actively engaged in their own learning, and when they are unmotivated.

I believe that each individual learns in his or her own unique way and that even an individual can differ in how they learn as they progress through their lives. I believe that some individuals prefer being directly taught by an individual in order to learn, while some prefer to watch videos, and others may prefer to read or learn by experiencing. I believe that personal preference when it comes to learning plays a big role in whether learning will be successfully achieved. I believe that the preference of learning styles leads to motivation and motivation leads to successful learning. I also believe that learning preferences can change over the course of a life for an individual. Young children may prefer to experience in order to learn and then those same individuals may eventually prefer to read in order to learn as they become adults. I believe that preferences, when it comes to learning, derive from how that individual is able to learn the easiest and feels the most successful. I believe that different individuals are more successful learning in different ways and that is what leads to learning style preferences.