Storytelling, Mime, and Movement: Making Learning Creative and Kinesthetic

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Old Time Early Active Learning Tool

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Kinesthetic = Feeling the Motion & Emotion

“Kinetic” = Motion
“aesthetic” = Feeling, Sensing
Kinein = Greek word – to move
Aisthetikos = Greek word – sensing, perceiving

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‘Kinesthetic’ unites two Greek words.

- ‘Kinein’ = Meaning to move
- ‘Aisthetikos’ = Meaning a capacity for sensation and feeling (Flexner, 1987)
- Balance, emotion, and intuition involve awareness of information from nerve endings called proprioceptors located in the muscles, viscera, tendons, and joints.
- Children talented in the kinesthetic area are able to perceive, feel, remember and respond to the motion and emotions experienced in both the environment and themselves! Howard Gardner calls it kinesthetic intelligence. Linguistically or mathematically talented students may or may not have kinesthetic talent but they will benefit from developing their kinesthetic abilities to their full potentials.

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A kinesthetic MNEMONIC uses the feeling of motion and emotion as an aid in the storage and retrieval of a concept or event, to be remembered.

Some scientists refer to ‘intuition’ when they ‘feel’ a solution to a problem or sense something is not right.

Herman, G.N. (1980). Creative Arts Strand. Confratute, Univ. of CT.
Two Examples of Kinesthetic Memory

1. Dancing the Periodic Table for Chemistry

2. The Copy Cat Game

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A Story about Ants with Movement and Sound Effects

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EINSTEIN’S Body Thinking—MUSCULAR IMAGES

Einstein wrote to his friend, “The words or language as they are written or spoken, do not seem to play any role in my mechanisms of thought. The psychical entities which seem to serve as elements in thought are... in my case, of the visual and some of the muscular type. Conventional words or other signs have to be sought for laboriously when the associative play is established.”

We must reconsider what is meant by talent. It is highly possible that what is called talented behavior is simply a greater individual capacity for experience.

From this point of view, it is in the increasing of the individual capacity for EXPERIENCING that the untold potentiality of a personality can be evoked.

Experiencing is penetration into the environment, total organic involvement with it. This means involvement on all levels: intellectual, physical, and intuitive. Of the three, the intuitive, most vital to the learning situation, is neglected.