

Session	2. Learner Characteristics and Learning Theories
Training course	Facilitation skills
Proposed length of session	60 minutes

Aim
Gain an understanding of Learning Styles and Learning Theories and their impact on planning and delivering sessions
Learning Objectives
<p>During this session, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Briefly review several learning style theories, then look in more detail at VAK learning theory and how it relates to the characteristics of learners ♣ Take part in a range of activities with the same learning outcome but different learning styles <p>After the session, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Explain VAK Learning Style Theory ♣ List the characteristics of adult learners ♣ Describe how learning styles and learner characteristics can impact on the success of training sessions ♣ Know their learning style and the impact this can have on the way in which they deliver training sessions ♣ List ways to ensure that various learning preferences in sessions are catered for

Prior to Training
<p>The following tasks are to completed by the participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pages 60 – 79 in the WAGGGS Facilitation Guide • Complete the questionnaire from page 136 – 140 in the WAGGGS Facilitation Guide

SESSION OUTLINE			
Time	Activities	Trainers Notes	Resources
20 mins	2.1 Learning style of participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Learning Styles. • Discussion around the outcomes from Honey & Mumford questionnaire for each participate. • Brainstorm a list of characteristics under the headings of Activist, Reflector, Theorist and Pragmatist. • Provide participants with the VAK Questionnaire to complete. • Discuss and compare Learning Styles across both questionnaires. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honey & Mumford questionnaire completed prior to session • WAGGGS Facilitation Guide Pg68-69 for characteristic of Learning Styles • VAK Questionnaire
10 mins	2.2 VAK learning style and preferences of learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the VAK Learning Activities sheet, ask Trainers to highlight the activities they have experienced or used. • In pairs or patrols, discuss which of the listed activities are likely to suit non-formal learning. Use sticky notes to collate these chosen activities under the headings 'Visual', 'Auditory' and 'Kinaesthetic'. Encourage participants to look for patterns and repetition. Share some examples from your own sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAK learning activity sheet • Sticky notes

25 mins	2.3 Selecting activities	<p>Now we know something of the range of learning preferences and the need for variety, how do we incorporate this into selection of appropriate activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose an activity / experiences with the same learning outcome but catering for different learning styles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a mini bedroll • Tying a knot • Making/cooking a buddy burner • In groups/patrols discuss how you would cater for different learning styles. • Each group/patrol to report back their findings to the larger group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions for three activities – Making a mini bedroll; tying a knot; make/cooking a buddy burner (this is not limited to these suggestions)
5 mins	2.4 Reflection on learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all learn in different ways • Variety of approach and doing different activities both maintains interest and is likely to meet the needs of a wider group of participants • Evaluate ways to ensure that sessions cater for all learning styles by making a top ten list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Ten List

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

2.1 Examples of learning style quizzes:

There are several on line versions of quizzes and tests that may be used. These examples have been chosen because they are short. They are of varying usefulness, which you may like to discuss depending on the group dynamics.

Honey & Mumford learning styles questionnaire

Dreamtime personalities

Multiple Intelligences quiz

True Colours and Learning quiz

VAK learning styles questionnaire self test

What type of person are you?

2.2 VAK:

VAK learning activities