

Ways to Learn

Is there any right way to learn? As this topic points out, there are many ways for someone to learn. However, no matter how well a person teaches, he or she cannot make a student learn. We all learn cognitively, affectively, and behaviorally.

The catechist is responsible for creating a learning environment in which the students' needs are met.

- When the students' physical needs are met, they will be more comfortable in their learning.
- When the students experience a sense of belonging and acceptance, they will be freer and more willing to learn.
- When the students' emotional needs are met, they experience the safety and the security they need for effective learning.

There are various techniques for learning effectively.

- *Imitation.* Students do what the teacher does.
- *Questioning.* Students learn better when they are curious and ask to be taught something.
- *Reward.* Students learn better when they feel immediately rewarded for accurate learning.
- *Enjoyment.* Students learn better when the learning activities are fun.
- *Meaningfulness.* Students learn more effectively if the learning has personal meaning.

People have different ways of learning. (Note: A good teacher tries to produce visual, auditory, and motor activities for each lesson.)

- Some people learn best by reading and writing.
- Others learn best by listening and speaking.
- Still others learn best by touching or movement.

Experience

1. Direct the catechists to discuss practical ways to create an environment for growth and learning in the religion classroom.
2. Have the catechists compare and discuss techniques for effective learning.
3. With a partner, catechists are to discuss ways each of them learns best (seeing, hearing, touching). How can they incorporate all three ways in each class?
4. In grade—level groups, have the catechists discuss practical ways to present the lessons in their students' texts using all three of the major ways of learning. Ask a representative from each group to report back to the whole class.

Pause and Reflect

1. How was the information on the ways people learn helpful to you?
2. How can learning about the ways people learn improve your teaching?

3. What did you gain from the suggestions of others for ways to improve the environment in your classroom?