

# Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges



## Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

We all know brain plays a major role in learning, but few are aware of how. In order to help facilitate student performance, it is essential that educators know how the brain is related to the learning process.

The first section focuses on how to identify a child with learning difficulties and help them overcome their challenges. It also provides tips on how to make learning fun, challenging, and different.

The second section explains how different learning styles impact student learning. You will gain knowledge about specific teaching approaches that can be used to reach and teach each learning style.



Official Transcript:  
1 Semester Credit



100% Online



Quizzes and  
Course Action Plan



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# Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges

## Course Outline

### SECTION A: Developing Cognition Skills

#### LESSON 1: Introduction

- Definition of cognitive skills and the barriers to successful learning
- Statistics on American students
- Five typical approaches prescribed for learning difficulties

#### LESSON 2: The Brain and Learning

- The brain structure and the latest techniques and technology in brain research
- Learning about what impacts brain development in a young child

#### LESSON 3: Testing

- IQ and achievement tests
- The importance of the right test to diagnose learning difficulties
- The connection between cognitive skills and learning
- Learning about several types of testing and how they can be used effectively

#### LESSON 4: Cognitive Skills

- The 2 parts of learning
- Why cognitive skills are foundational tools
- The various theories of learning
- Attention and memory and how these skills can be developed in students

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### LESSON 5: Learning Styles

- Types of learning styles including visual, auditory, kinesthetic
- Learning styles inventory and its applications
- How learning styles impact teaching strategies and curriculum planning

### LESSON 6: General Training Strategies

- Definition and symptoms of autism
- The autism spectrum and primary conditions within this spectrum
- Other similar conditions, including Rett's syndrome and Fragile X syndrome
- Primary management for autism
- Functioning of the brain in autism and the cause for deficits

### LESSON 7: Reading Strategies

- Basic and critical reading skills
- Strategies to improve basic and critical skills
- Comprehension strategies
- The steps in reading
- Understanding the various reading approaches

### LESSON 8: Special Conditions

- Specific cognitive issues in conditions such as ADHD, Dyslexia, PDD, Autism, and ODD
- Learning strategies for these conditions

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### SECTION B: Accommodating All Learners

#### LESSON 1: Every Learner Learning

- Teaching and learning
- Accommodating all learners
- About the brain
- Introduction to learning styles
- Teacher as a learner
- The Paragon Learning Style Inventory (PLSI)

#### LESSON 2: Who Are Our Students? Teaching Across Types

- Characteristics of today's youth
- Aspects of physical and cognitive access to the general curriculum
- Academic learning styles and students' skill development as it aligns with age
- The concept of perception and differences in perception
- How to build a win-win pedagogy based on the 5 principles
- Strategies to employ when the teacher's learning style conflicts with students' styles
- Thinking styles

#### LESSON 3: Technology

- Media as a flexible tool to reach all learners
- Recent research on technology and traditional models of delivery
- Traditional media versus digital media
- Digital media and how it can be used to customize materials and methods
- Technology timeline

#### LESSON 4: Theories and Strategies

- Components of multiple intelligences
- Activities to develop each type of intelligence
- Bloom's taxonomy, differentiated instruction, and informal learning
- Hemisphericity and activities that can stimulate both left and right sides of the brain
- The 4-quadrant model



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