



Mama Shark's

# Kid Smarts

# + Nature Smart

Kids who like to learn this way often can't get enough of being outside. They want to play in the dirt, jump in the puddles, and find every evidence of wildlife that they can. They also may struggle if they are confined inside for too long- "recess" is prime learning time for these kids!

## **Ideas for teaching kids who are Nature Smart:**

- Get outside!!! Use nature to bring home the more regular school lessons- draw in the dirt, count the bugs, use geometry to build a shed...whatever interests them about outside, try and bring it into the other subjects.
- Go to the zoo, the park, the aquarium, the beach, the pond, the farm. Anywhere they can be outside and learning about what is around them.
- Try cooking! Kids who love learning via the natural world are often the same ones who enjoy cooking and baking, and there is a lot of real life applications involved in meal prep!



# Sound Smart

Do you know someone who can remember every word to every song? Chance are, they've got this second smart! Kids who learn this way tend to love **hearing** things to learn them- and may be easily distracted by environments where it's too noisy!

## Ideas for teaching kids who are Sound Smart:

- Music! There is a song for everything, especially with youtube available. Whatever you want to learn, try using a song or a rhythm to aid memory.
- Audiobooks. Audiobooks are available for free through many library apps, and kids who learn this way will likely absorb a lot just through listening while they play.
- Give verbal instructions. If you're like me, I always want to hand someone a list. But kids who learn by sound may do better if they are *\*told\** what they need to do.

# + Number/Logic Smart

Kids who are smart in this way enjoy things to be in order- they like to check the boxes and for everything to make sense. These kids like to *\*have\** the plan and to *\*make\** the plan and to *\*follow\** the plan. And possibly *\*argue\** with the plan because they think they can do it better. Kids who are number/logic smart tend to enjoy being given assignments that are broken down into pieces they can check off and see progress on, and they may feel frustrated if there is no apparent end goal.

## Ideas for teaching kids who are Number/Logic Smart

- -Puzzles and critical thinking assignments are fun for this crowd!
- Math and real life situations that use math will likely excite these kids- involve them in things like finding deals, figuring out your grocery budget, or calculating how many items you need for a project.
- Involve them kids in everyday decision-making so that they can practice their reasoning skills.



# Self Smart

Another way to describe this kind of kid would be introspective- whether they are generally loud or quiet, these kids know themselves. They're often in touch with what they are feeling (even if they're not good at controlling it yet) and sure of what they want. Kids who are Self Smart may also be hyper aware of their own strengths and weaknesses- which may result in a struggle to tackle tasks that don't come easily to them because they may feel like they have failed before they've even started.

## Ideas for teaching kids who are Self Smart:

- Writing or drawing in a journal can help these kids to fill their need to process things internally.
- Listening- really deeply listening- is likely important to these kids. This might take the form of conversations where they feel free to share about themselves, or it may look more like a writing assignment where they have the chance to express themselves and their opinions.
- Allow them to be a part of deciding what/how to learn. Help them feel like they are set up in a way that caters to their learning style strengths so that they will feel successful from the start.

# + People Smart

Kids with this type of intelligence have natural social skills. They can figure out what people want and adapt accordingly- they often make great entrepreneurs and sales people when they grow up! Kids who have people smarts often like to do things with others as a part of the learning process, and they may need extra patience when it's required they do assignments on their own.

## **Ideas for teaching kids who are People Smart:**

- Group activities! Cooperative projects are often fun for them and help them enjoy what they are learning.
- Stories about people are especially meaningful to this group. Books allow these kids to have "friends" around, even when other people aren't present.
- Do things together. Instead of giving an assignment and walking away, this type of learner is likely to retain things better when it's done together with someone else, even if it's a skill they \*could\* figure out on their own.

# + Body Smart

Body smart kids are often the most physically active. They want to run, jump, climb, swing, and touch everything! They're probably the kid you found on top of the dining room table when they were a toddler. These kids have a need to express themselves physically, so they're the most likely to want to wrestle, snuggle, hug, punch, or scream. They tend to do well in athletics, but may struggle when required to sit still.

## **Ideas for teaching kids who are Body Smart:**

- **Sports!** Give them a chance to get their energy out in a physical way, whether competitively or not.
- **Involve movement in their learning.** They're more likely to remember something if they have a motion to remind them!
- **Give them something to squish, twiddle, or fiddle with when they have to be still.** Their minds and bodies are very strongly connected, so if you want one to move, you need to allow the other to as well!



# Word Smart

Word Smart kids are strong linguistically. This might come out verbally, or it may show up more as an enjoyment of writing (or both!). These kids pick up on a lot of vocabulary and they'll make you laugh as they try out new phrases they've heard from you. They tend to enjoy reading and stories and talking out their thoughts, and may struggle if no one is able or willing to listen.

## **Ideas for teaching kids who are Word Smart:**

- Books! All kids should read books, but this learning type will enjoy them especially. Make lots of high quality books available to them and they will likely educate themselves in many things.
- Use assignments that allow them to use their words- writing, speaking, or talking out loud, depending on their preference.
- Provide ways for them to grow and stretch their vocabulary so they have more words to use!

# + Picture/Space Smart

This particular Kid Smart can play out in a few different ways. One is kids who are very visual- they have a photographic memory, and/or they think in pictures. They can often visualize whatever they want to create or do and can quickly locate visual differences. Others in this group are more spatial, meaning they love to build and create and fix things, and they can easily figure out how things fit together. This type of learner often needs pictures to remember things, and if no or few pictures are present, they tend to be the ones who will doodle to help keep themselves focused. If no pictures are present and there is nothing available to draw on, these kids may have a difficult time remembering the information presented; teachers will do well to give them a visual cue for anything they want retained.

## **Ideas for teaching kids who are Picture/Space Smart:**

- -Books again! Seeing the words on the page and creating pictures in their minds is a primary learning method for many visual learners.
- Build it. Spatially-minded kids will enjoy making things in 3D. Manipulatives and hands-on activities are key!
- Give them creative space. Visual/spatial learners often enjoy things like whittling, sculpting, baking, and building. Provide them with the means to create and you'll be amazed with what they come up with!

# + Spiritual/Life Smart

Kids who display this type of Smart are born world-changers. They have a strong sense of justice, and they seek to relate things to the big picture of life. They often have a strong moral compass and a compassionate heart. One of the hardest things for a Life Smart kid is seeing what they perceive as injustice- which could be as simple as being denied candy when their friend has some! These learners tend to ask the deep questions about life, God, and why things are the way they are.

## **Ideas for teaching kids who are Spiritual/Life Smart:**

- Include them in your family's spiritual practices. If you go to church, explain to them why and what you're doing. Read Scriptures to them and teach them about God.
- Find a cause that they are passionate about and involve them in it. Social justice is a natural fit for this style of learner, and there are many ways to incorporate learning into being involved in a cause.
- Praise their character. Who they are intrinsically is likely to matter deeply to them!