

Project Learning for the Multiple Intelligences Classroom

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When I was a class teacher my favourite part was definitely project work. This book advocates project based learning as 'intelligence growing' through 'complex, compelling activities that engage the learning intellectually'. The book's concept of a project is fully discussed with the central idea that the pupil will produce something by collecting, developing, reviewing and presenting.

Although the early section of the book is highly theoretical and develops a specialised vocabulary which continues through the book, the projects described and the review material contained in it are very structured and easy to understand. These projects include 'Biography of a Senior Citizen' and 'Designing a better shopping cart' and each contains discussion of all the management considerations as well as the outline project.

The idea of multiple intelligences recurs throughout but not in a forced or artificial way. It also suggests some very specific roles for members of groups working together which would build well on a class teachers knowledge of her pupils' strengths in different areas. Use of internet as a resource is built in. Self and peer assessment, from the structured rubrics to the informal (use encouraging words) are a major feature of each project.

As the book is American some of the Educational language is unfamiliar but translations to a Scottish setting can easily be seen. Once the style has become familiar it is an easy book to dip into and locate ideas. I have compared this descriptor of project based work with the new Environmental Studies guidelines. Unfortunately I can see no reference to Multiple Intelligences in it. In all it is the kind of book that makes me want to be a class teacher again and thankful that my colleagues have a broad view of 'learning support' and often allow me to collaborate with project work.