

LIA International Conference 2010

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Abstract for Concurrent Session

Language Learning and the senses

**Marc Helgesen
(Japan)**

Teaching English means more than knowing about ELT. It includes knowing how we teach, including our own teaching and learning styles, and knowing who we are – in relation to our students. That includes sensory awareness. Barring a disability, we all have five senses. Every bit of information we take in comes through sight, hearing, touch/movement, smell or taste. Why then are classes often limited to visual (*Look at page 35.*) and auditory input (*Listen!*)?

Everyone has one strongest “preferred” sense (also known as a “learning style” or a “learning channel”.) Most of us also have a weak one. We often teach in the sense we process most easily. What about learners weak in that sense? This activity-based session will explore sensory modalities (learning styles or learning channels), ways to identify our own and learners’ preferred sense, and how to teach across the senses. Participants will receive a handout showing how to modify listening, speaking and reading activities to include a wider range of sensory input. *It really does make sense!*

More on multi-sensory learning is available on the presenter’s website:
<http://HelgesenHandouts.terapad.com>

Topic area: 2. Curriculum, syllabus and material development.