

### **Incorporating MI**

Engaging a wide variety of learners is one of the most challenging tasks educators face. Students present with various learning styles and according to Gardner, each student presents a unique and individualized set of multiple intelligences (Amerson, 2006). Designing educational assessments and nursing curriculum to incorporate the realm of learning modalities proves difficult, but not impossible. Amerson (2006) provides examples for educators to employ when building curriculum and even for presenting one classroom lecture that includes all of Gardner's MI.

The theory of andragogy provides suggestion that adult learners are internally motivated and engage adequately when they can incorporate their lived experiences and gain responsibility for a piece of the learning process (Mackeracher, 2004). Ellen Weber's Multiple Intelligence Teaching Approach (MITA) incorporates Gardner's work on MI, as well as the themes of problem based learning and constructivism to create a model of education that goes beyond traditional didactic approaches to enhance student learning (Denny, Weber, Wils, Stokes, Lane, & Denieffe, 2008).

The MITA and work by Amerson provide the contextual knowledge used to design the multiple learning activities to achieve the defined learning objective.

### **Learning Activity Objective**

Identify the health and wellness needs associated with the developmental level of the adolescent and its implications for nursing care of the patient and their family.

#### **Verbal/Linguistic**

- Attend classroom lecture on behavioral health problems in adolescence and utilize fill in the blank power point slides to make notes
- Interview adolescents and their families in the outpatient clinic on perceived behavioral concerns of the patient and family and create a vignette combining research and interview data

#### **Mathematical/Logical**

- Compare and contrast how obesity effects various adolescent disease processes
- Create a graph based on local demographics that displays the incidence and prevalence of adolescent obesity in reference to socioeconomic status, neighborhood, class, race, and gender and its effect on comorbidities.

#### **Visual/Spatial**

- Analyze the portrayed emotions and reactions by the adolescent characters in the movie *Juno* regarding the unplanned pregnancy
- Create a health and wellness poster illustrating the complex physiological changes and psychosocial needs of the adolescent and their family

#### **Body/Kinesthetic**

- Visit a local high school and apprentice the coach/teacher in a hands on physical education class focusing on sports safety and proper use of sporting equipment and body movements to prevent unintentional injury
- Role play and demonstrate to the class the correct and incorrect ways of applying sports equipment

**Musical**

- Listen to a popular radio station that would target the adolescent demographic and identify the positive and negatives themes of the songs, commercials, and radio personality dialogue and how this effects and or influences the health behaviors of adolescents and their families
- Create a 30 second radio commercial or jingle that positively promotes the avoidance of substance abuse

**Interpersonal**

- Break into groups and discuss your perception of physical health concerns of adolescents and their families based on your four years in high school
- As a group, choose a common theme and create a lesson objective and three ways of implementation for a school health nurse targeting health promotion

**Intrapersonal**

- Review the unit in the textbook on family centered care of the adolescent and identify an area of interest that focuses on a physiological or psychosocial health
- Create a learning contract to be implemented continuously during the semester that fosters the development of knowledge about the health issue

**Naturalist**

- Visit a busy, local, public, community park frequented by adolescents and analyze the environment for safety and health concerns related to the population
- Using information gathered from your visit, compare and contrast the park's environment to the regulatory standards enforced by local, state, and federal safety agencies.

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