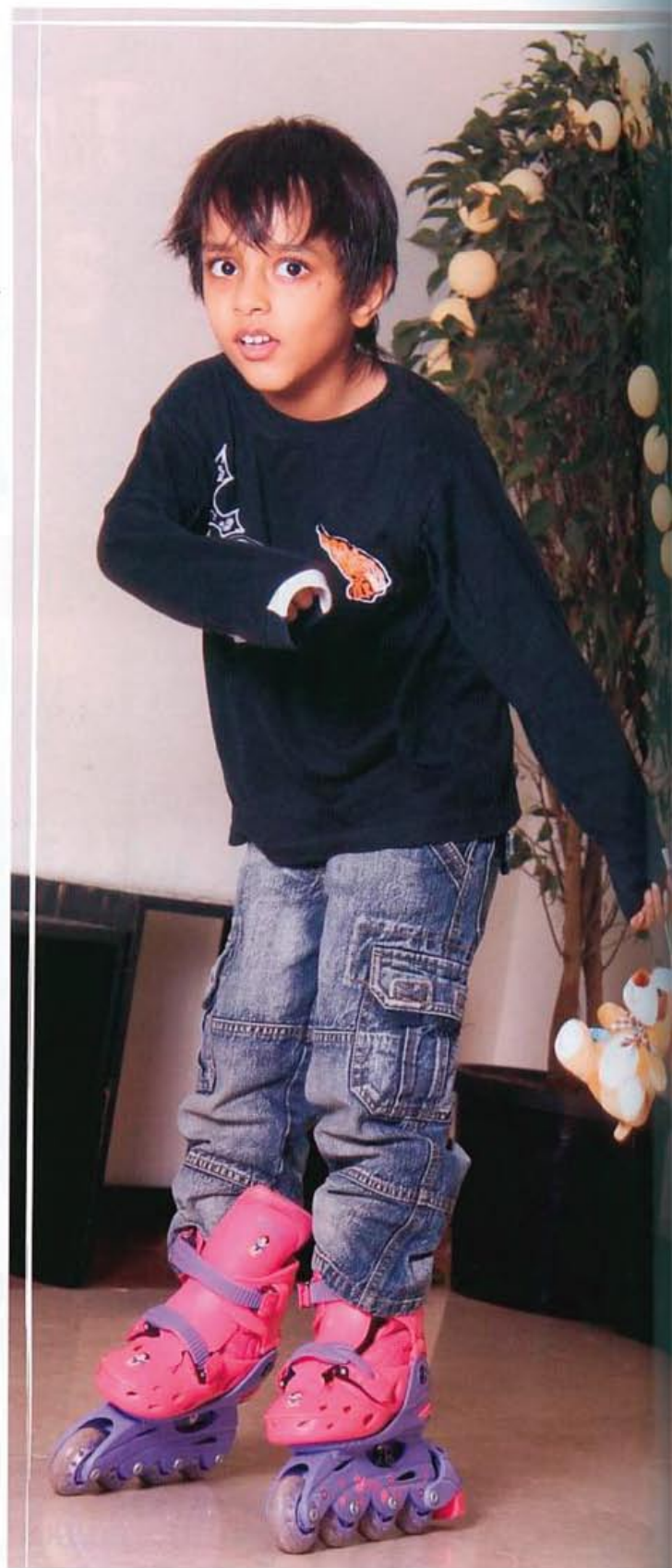


Why do some children eagerly await new information while some choose to while away time doodling, clutching their satchel and counting minutes before they can hear the welcoming chime of the end-of-lecture bell? Why do some children listen in rapt attention to the teacher while some struggle with droopy eyes and permanent masks of glazed expressions, which belie their mental presence in the classroom, much to the agony of their teachers? On one hand there is a child who looks forward to working diligently on a project on his own and suddenly feels lost when thrown in a group. On the other hand there is a child who actually jumps at the opportunity of working with people and performs better than he would have when working on his own? Are any of these children less interested than others in learning? In such a scenario it will be appropriate to say that just as children are inherently different from one another so are the ways in which they choose to respond to acquire and assimilate information. A universally accepted fact is that, not unlike adults, no two children are the same some are noisy, some quiet, some are restless, some calm and composed, some are chronically mischievous, some shy, some are studious, some need to be hauled from the playground! Just as they vary in personalities and attitudes, so do they when it comes to the ways in which they learn, i.e. their learning styles. Some are rapt listeners and are quick to comprehend verbal instructions; some crave for a hands on experience, involving plenty of body movements, whereas some need concrete visual stimuli to understand and process the information.

How does one define learning styles? Simply put, learning styles are the different ways through which one can learn. Every learner has a specific approach to grasp information which is best suited to him / her. This specific approach is his / her learning style. This is what enables him / her to learn in the best possible manner. According to the Learning Theory, there are three primary categorizations of the learning styles:

1. Visual Learners
2. Auditory Learners
3. Kinesthetic or Tactile Learners.

Before delving into the specifics of the above-mentioned learning styles, it is of paramount importance to consider their contribution in the intellectual development of our children. In today's day and age when fixed school syllabi is virtually redundant, where the focus has dynamically shifted from teacher-oriented classrooms to student-centered ones, teachers and parents both need to realize and understand how their child can learn in the best possible manner. As a parent it will not only enable you to understand your child better but it will also equip you with the knowledge of the various approaches and skills that you can adopt at home that will help your child to succeed better in school. With an increasing pressure on students, an understanding of this theory will stop our unfair labeling of them to a great extent, especially as the realization sinks in that learning differences are in no way synonymous with learning disabilities. Moreover you can help your child to



develop the best ways to remember information, which can be helpful not only in examinations but also later on in life. Understanding of your child's learning style can help your child to understand himself / herself better and to communicate his / her thoughts more effectively. With a clear understanding of self and articulation of thoughts, children can get rid of the many frustrations that they face while learning and also in their daily interactions with people.