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Using Playful Learning to Teach Arabic Script

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Facebook Learning Page: **Arabic TAFL**

Arabic Program for Non-Native Speakers

Qatar University

Arabic Language and Culture in Schools

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Content

- Arabic Script
- Multi-Sensory Learning
- Playful Learning Bloom's Taxonomy
- Added Value
- References

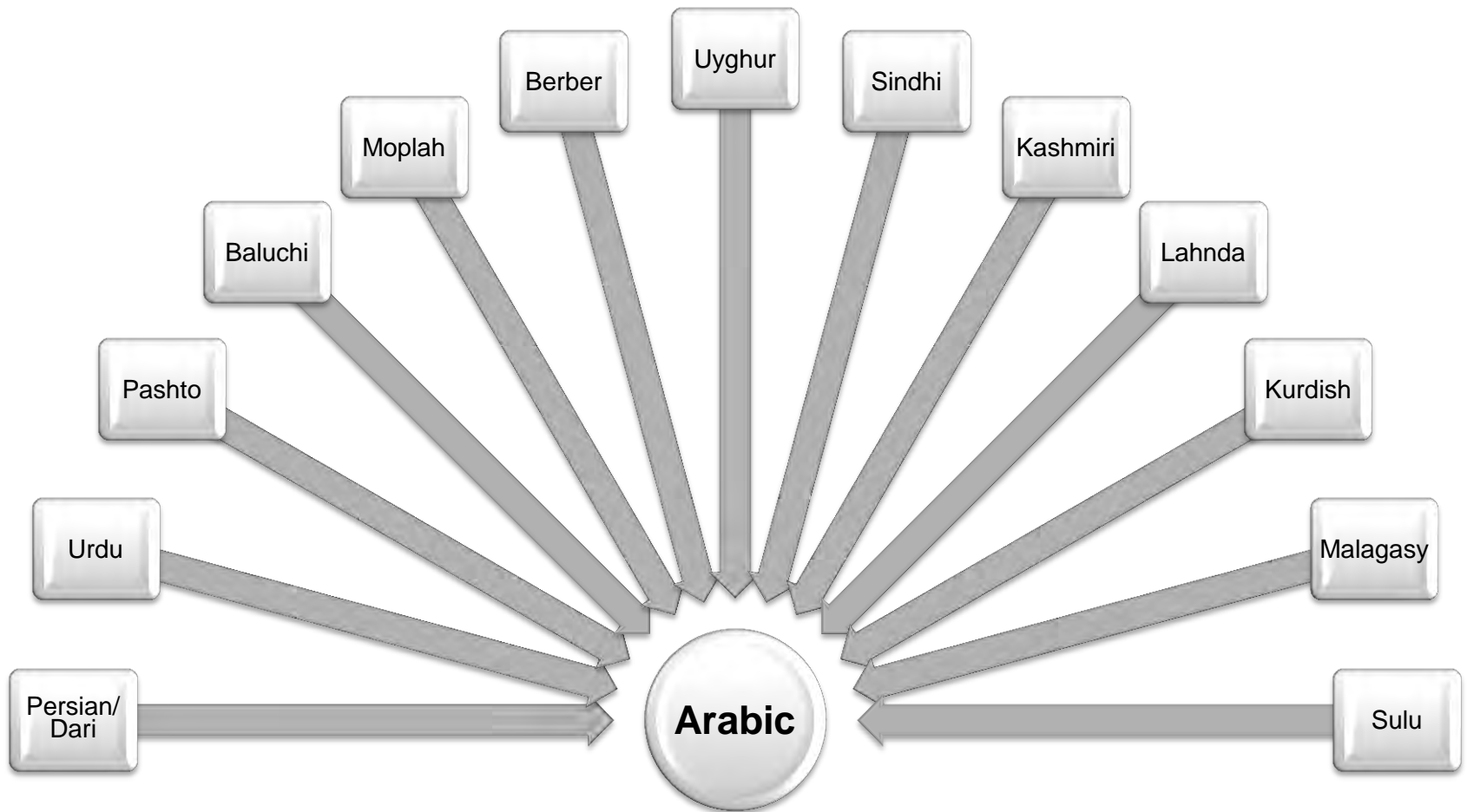


Writing Skills

- Decoding (Script)
- Orthography (Spelling)
- Phonology (Sounds)
- Semantics (Vocabulary Building)
- Etymology (Word Building)
- Syntax (Word Order in a Sentence)
- Metaphor (Writing and Reading Behind the Lines)



Languages Using Arabic



Advantages

Arabic Script – Facts 1

What are the advantages perceived by Arabic script learners?

- Visual thinking; good at working with images, diagrams etc
- Problem-solving ability & creative thinking
- Interpersonal skills; working collaboratively
- Persistence and determination
- Good at practical tasks
- Thinking and working in three dimensions
- Each Arabic grapheme is represented by one phoneme; the combination of any two letters does not produce a different phoneme.



Challenges

Arabic Script – Facts 2

What are the challenges that can be perceived by Arabic script learners?

- Difficulties recognising, or confusion between, letters & words.
- Mispronunciations caused by difficulties in discriminating between sounds.
- Difficulty in carrying out long lists of instructions, copying from the board and remembering what has just been said.
- Poor motor control, resulting in difficulty writing neatly
- Laterality: left/right confusions
- Poor sequencing skills, for example using letters in the right order to spell
- Tires quickly, and/or quality of work deteriorates rapidly.
- Finds it difficult to work speedily or under pressure.





ADEQUATE TRAINING? - BY WHATEDSAID

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Learning is commonly defined as a process that brings together cognitive, emotional, and environmental influences and changes in one's knowledge, skills, values, and world views...

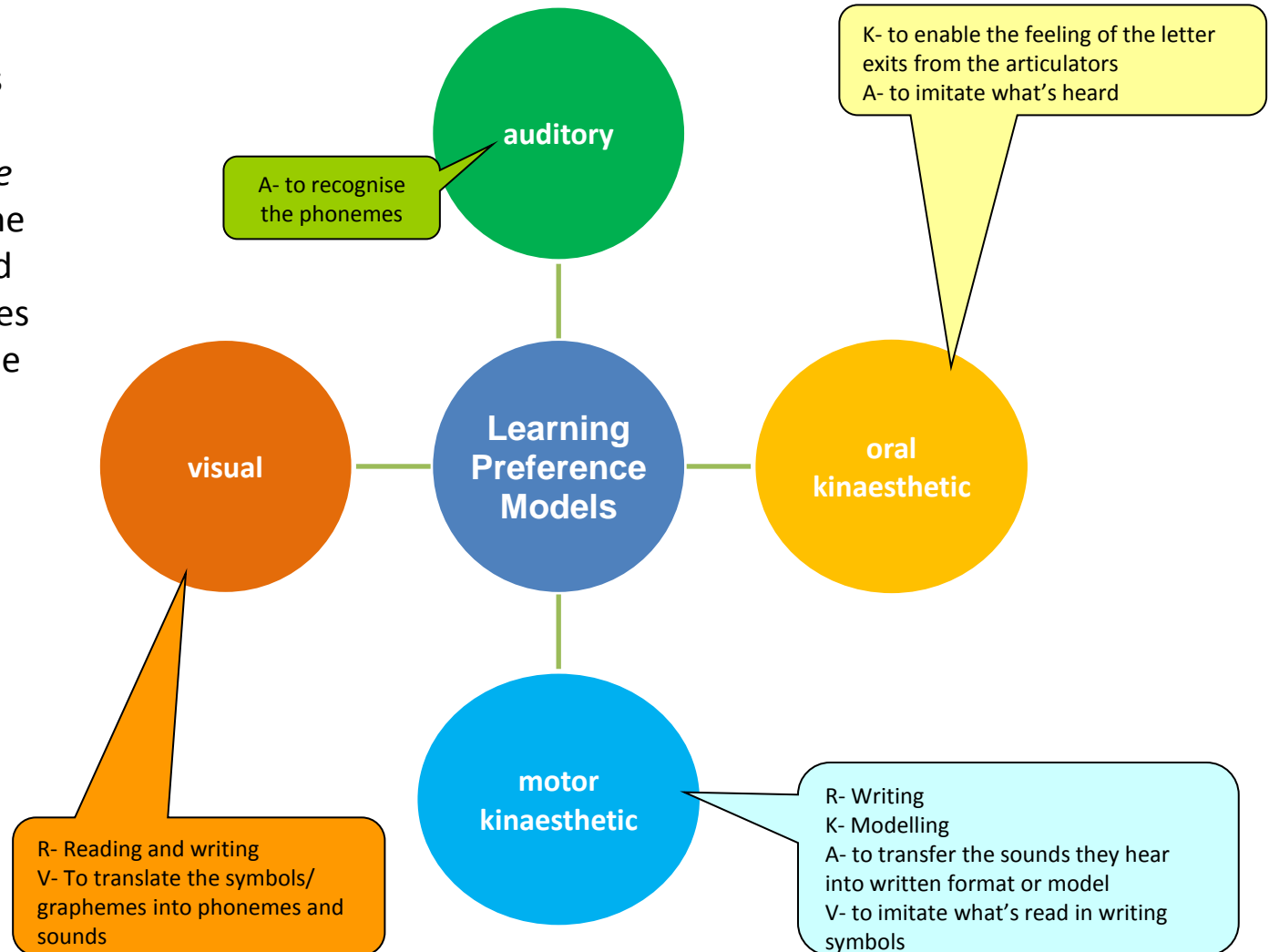


VARK



Principles of Multisensory Learning

“ a programme that is at once: *structured, sequential, cumulative and thorough*..... the skills are to be learned through all the avenues of learning open to the student – *visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic in interaction*”
[*\(Miles & Miles, 1999\)*](#)



Activities to Learn Arabic Script

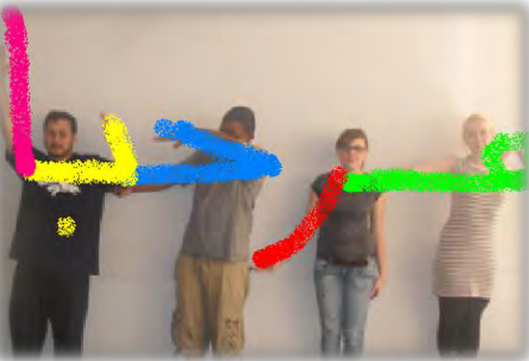
Games which I developed:

1. Be a Letter
2. Play-dough
3. Treasure Hunt



Be a Letter Game:

Hello and Welcome

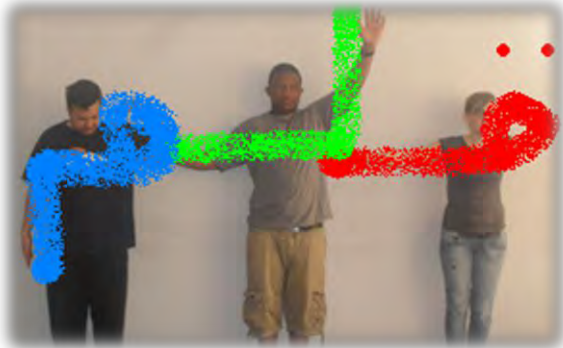
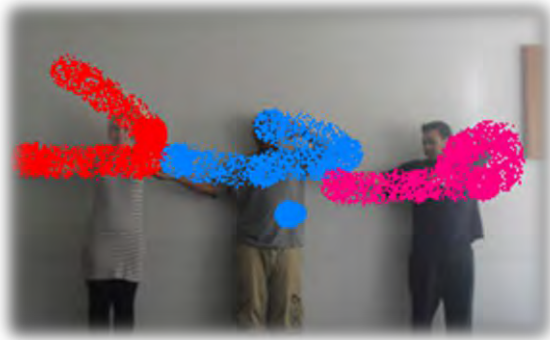


Be a Letter Game: Isolated Letters



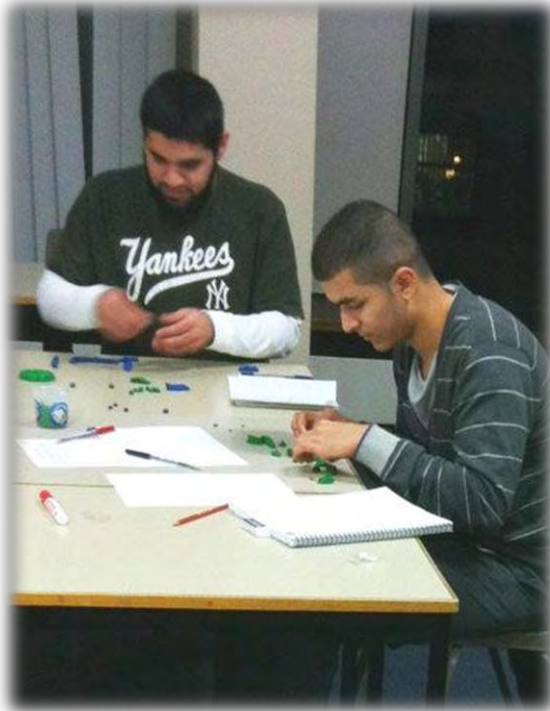
Be a Letter Game:

Connection Changes the Meaning



Play-dough 1

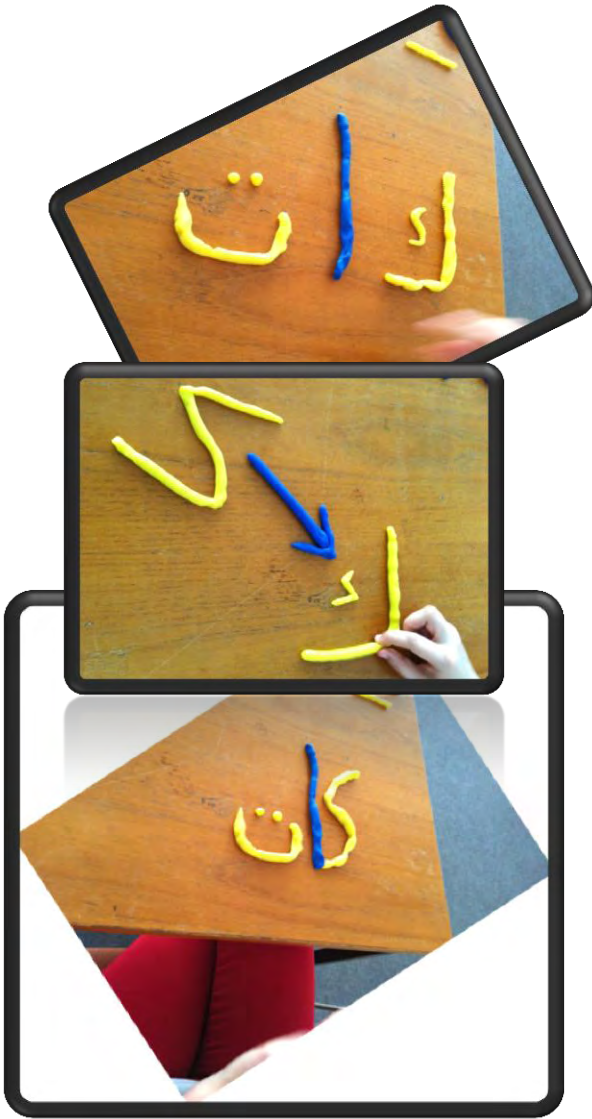
Ibrahim & Yunis



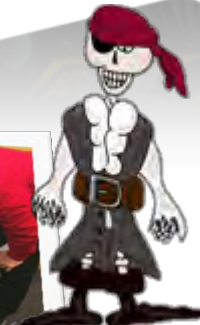
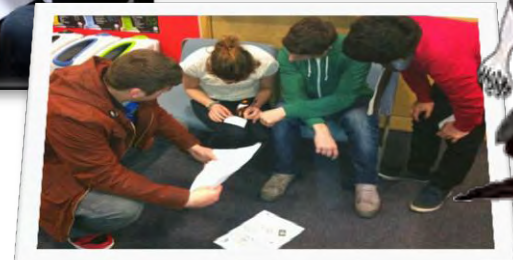
Feben, Faiza & Amreen



Play-dough 2



Treasure Hunt



How do these activities assist the learning of Arabic script?

1. **PD, BL:** To introduce students to Arabic script and language in a friendly way (Ice-Breaking Activity).
2. **PD, BL, TH:** To participate in immersive Edutainment or Playful Learning activities.
3. **PD, BL:** To apply what students learnt by doing: “extraneous thinking, or doing something other than just working with knowledge as was taught...” (Moore and Stanley 2010: 32).
4. **BL, TH:** To describe, compare and discuss letters with peers (Group Activities): “Group work motivates learners. Several advantages have already been claimed for group work. It allows for a greater quantity and richer variety of language...” (Long and Porter 1985: 212).
5. **BL:** To demonstrate the positioning of the letters (right to left).
6. **PD, BL:** To familiarise students with the letter behaviour in Arabic (including: stretching, respect of the line, connectivity... etc).
7. **PD, BL:** To differentiate and distinguish between similar letters.

PD: Play-dough,

BL: Be a Letter Game,

TH: Treasure Hunt



Playful Learning from MY Students' Perspective...

B. About the Unit and Approach (questions 6-23)

6	At the beginning, I felt that Arabic script is VERY difficult to learn.	29.6	14.8	11.1	14.8	29.6	-	-
7	Games and activities facilitated learning Arabic script	66.6	22.2	7.4	3.7	-	-	-
8	Overall, I'm satisfied with the quality of this unit	55.5	44.4	-	-	-	-	-

1	Game/ activity facilitated learning Arabic Writing and Reading	12	76		12		
2	I enjoyed the game/ activity	12	64	12	12		
3	I learnt something new from my team's contribution	25	50	25			
4	The activity prompted group work	33	67				
5	The activity facilitated faster learning		36	50	24		
6	The activity made learning more efficient	11	45	22	22		
7	I have felt the pressure of the exam	11	22	34	22	11	
8	Learning Arabic can be fun	60	30	10			