How Visual Learners Think vs The Way Schools Teach

The chart below explains the differences in how visual learners think vs how schools teach. While traits listed are common to visual learners overall, not all children are exactly alike and not all schools teach exactly the same way.

How Visual Learners Think	The Way Schools Teach
Visual learners think in images	Schools are language focused
They are whole to part learners	Teach step by step learning
Big picture, conceptual thinkers that may miss smaller details	Less concerned about big picture - focused on details - values details
Better at math reasoning than computation	When teaching math focuses on computation
Learns whole words, less successful with phonics	Uses phonetic approach to learning words
Must visualize words to spell them	Teaches to sound words out to spell them
Weak organizational skills	Relies on strong linear organizational skills
Weak compositional writing	Requires high level of reading and compositional writing skill
Has difficulty organizing thoughts in linear manner	
Poor short term memory	Teaching and testing based on short term memory skills
Strong long term visual memory	
Doesn't learn well through drill and repetition	Uses drill and repetition to learn
Gifted creatively, relationally, technically and emotionally	Teaches, tests and measures academic and intellectual strengths
Thinks intuitively. Finds answers, solutions intuitively. Has difficult time showing work.	Requires students to be able to show their work to demonstrate how they got answers

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