

A Day of Learning at Waldorf Plaza

People gathered for free information and education on July 24th



FWC hands on!



Teaching the public about our wildlife

Kids were thrilled to hold a baby alligator or python and learn about these species up close.



FWC in action.



Boating safety info & giveaways by the Coast Guard Auxiliary



FWC Lionfish Control team ready with info.

5 Love Languages - Instant Relationship Hack

by Dawn Wiggins, Ed.S.

Do you know your love language? Perhaps you have a favorite color, or brand of soda. Maybe there is a genre of music or movie you prefer. You may even have a brand of car that you are completely loyal to. If you have a choice, you pick what you prefer.

Your partner has their own preferences. You likely know what some of them are. If you are making decisions that involve your partner, it's a good idea to consider their preference. For instance, if you are painting your home, you wouldn't select a color that your partner hates. If you make a habit of ignoring your partners preferences you probably fight - a lot.

The same concept applies if you are unfamiliar with your partners love language. You need this important piece of intel to understand how you both express and receive love.

relationship hack can instantly improve your connection with anyone in your life.

Words of Affirmation: Spoken or written affection, praise, or appreciation.

Acts of Service: Helpful actions such as washing the dishes or running an errand.

Receiving Gifts: A thoughtful or meaningful item which symbolizes love and affection.

Quality Time: Spending undivided or undistracted time together.

Physical Touch: This can be hand holding, hugging and yes, sex.

I took the quiz on the web at www.5lovelanguages.com and learned that my primary love language is quality time followed by acts of service. While physical touch and words of affirmation were also relevant, receiving gifts scored a zero.

This is important to note because receiving gifts may be a blind spot for me. Meaning, if someone goes out of their way to select a thoughtful gift, I may not respond with the enthusiasm they were looking for.

I invited my hubby to take the quiz - it turns out we have nearly the exact same scores. That makes it pretty easy for us to successfully give and receive love. But what if we didn't?

If your partner's love language is physical touch and yours is acts of service, how can you bridge that gap? By consciously prioritizing your partners preference.

Remember, if your partner likes Coca Cola, you wouldn't order them a Pepsi. Our human nature is to take the path of least resistance. We choose the thing that is easy. If your partner's love

language is different than yours, your relationship will require a little more effort.

The good news is, your investment will pay off. It is helpful to have at least a basic discussion. Something like, "Hey, I know you really feel loved when we have sex or hug; It's important for me to show you I love you. I really feel loved when you wash the dishes. Would you be willing to say I love you with dish soap and a sponge?"

If you can make this type of agreement, with clarity, your connection will thrive. Magically, chores become a form of love instead of a task that needs to be completed.

Likewise, you can understand how devastating it would be to withhold sex (love) from your partner if their love language is physical touch.

How can I use my personal love language to meet my own needs if I'm lonely, empty or sad?

There are times in life when we don't feel love from others. It may be that they don't speak our language or that they are unavailable. In those times, it can be helpful to know and use your own love language.

Using what you have learned about yourself, find a way to apply it even if your partner doesn't. If your preference is quality time, pick a close friend or family member and make plans. If you crave acts of service, you may hire someone to do that extra task this week. Or, invite a friend and do it together.

If you enjoy words of affirmation, listening to an inspirational podcast or a Louise Hay meditation would



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hit the spot. You get the idea here. Get creative and fill your heart in the way you desire.

By doing this, you move from a victim mentality (poor me) to an empowered love machine!

5 Love Languages With Friends And Family.

Surprise! Your children, parents, siblings and friends have their own love language also. If you keep this in mind, life gets easier. Your children will be less needy if you speak their love language. Your friendships will blossom. Your family relationships will feel more fulfilling.

Keep in mind, you could be working harder than you need to! If you are practicing the wrong love language with those closest to you, they may not be receiving your efforts. You may not need to scour the town for the perfect gift. You may just write a loving message in a card or take them out to lunch. A slight adjustment in your approach to love will make a world of difference.

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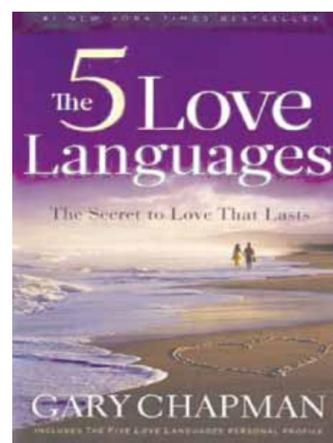
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Gary Chapman's 5 Love Languages is based on the same premise. If you know your preferences and your partner's preferences, it's easier to get along and connect. Dr. Chapman has studied both anthropology and theology. He has spent years counseling couples and developed his love language theory. This