



# BRAIN FRIENDLY EDUCATION

NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TITLE I  
TONY DITRIO

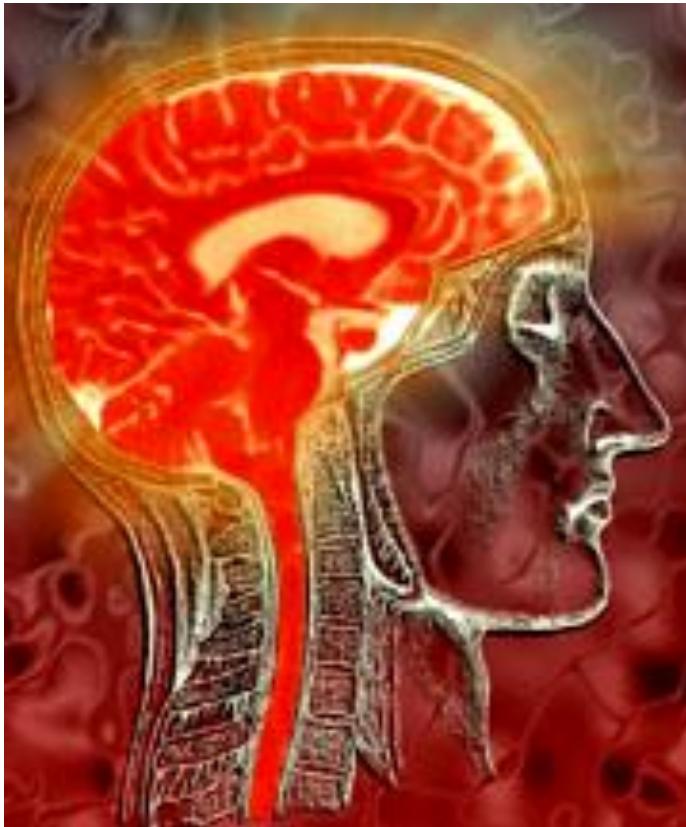
# What is Brain-Based Teaching?

It's **E-S-P!**

*the Purposeful  
Engagement*

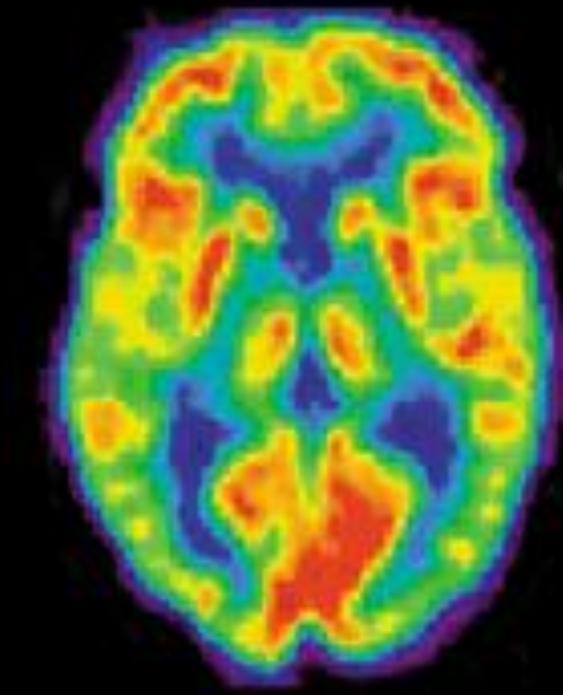
*of effective  
Strategies*

*derived from  
Principles of  
cognitive neuroscience*



- We've learned more about the brain in the last 10 years than in the previous 100 years!
- Over 255 brain journals now published!
- 37,000 scientists from 62 countries produce countless studies daily.
- Have you noticed the news?

Neuroscience  
is Exploding!



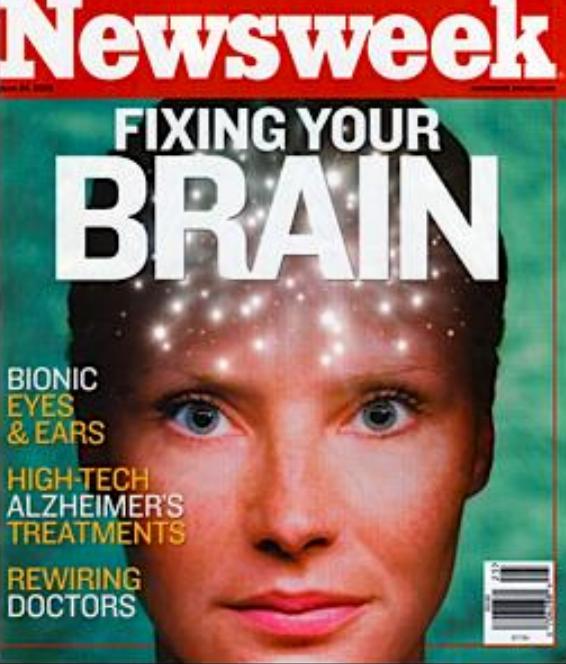
# Newsweek

## FIXING YOUR BRAIN

BIONIC EYES & EARS

HIGH-TECH ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENTS

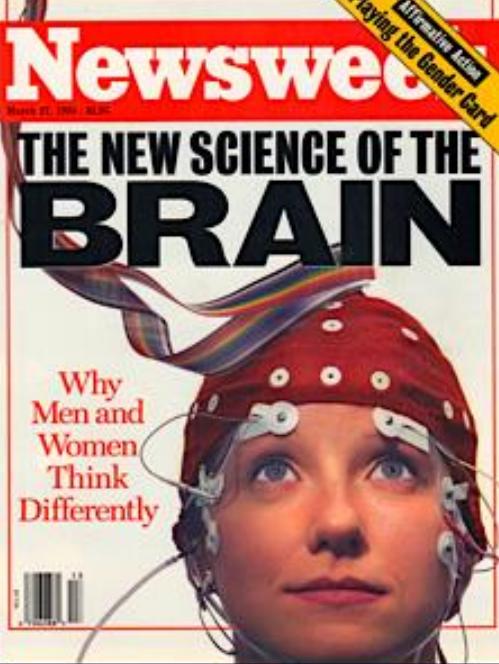
REWIRING DOCTORS



# Newsweek

## THE NEW SCIENCE OF THE BRAIN

Why Men and Women Think Differently

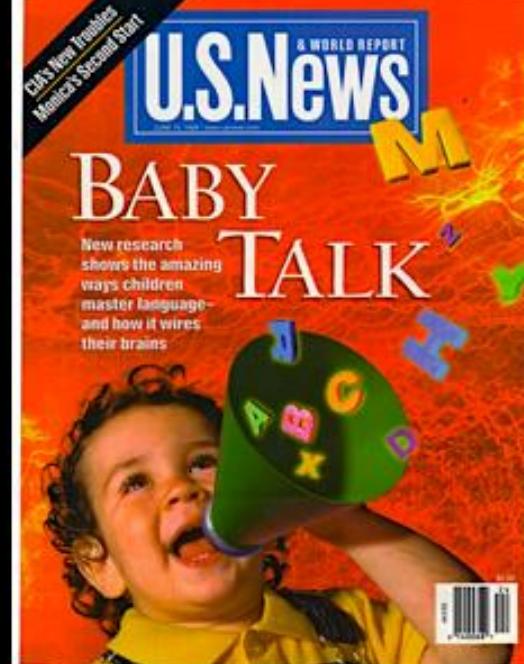


## U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

## U.S. News

## BABY TALK

New research shows the amazing ways children master language—and how it wires their brains



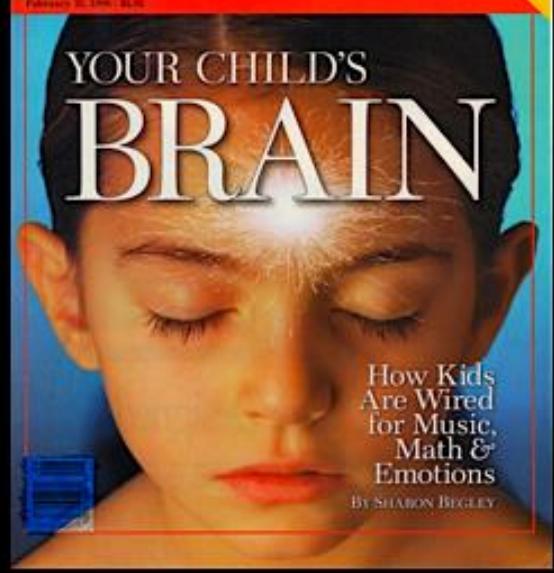
# Newsweek

February 21, 1994 \$2.25

## YOUR CHILD'S BRAIN

How Kids Are Wired for Music, Math & Emotions

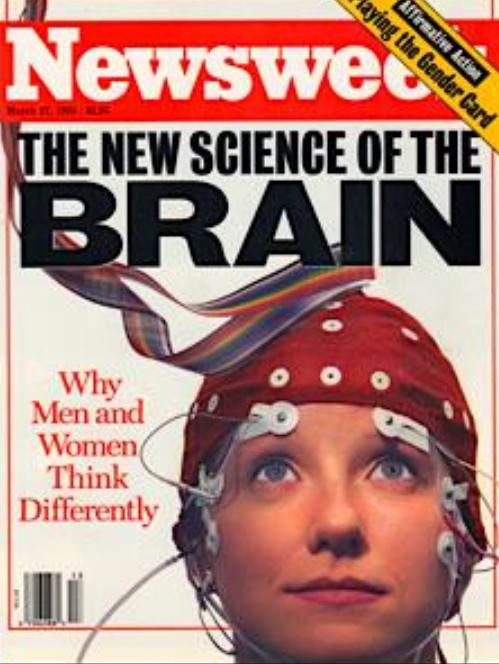
BY SHARON BEGLEY



# TIME

## HOW A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS

And what it means for child care and welfare reform

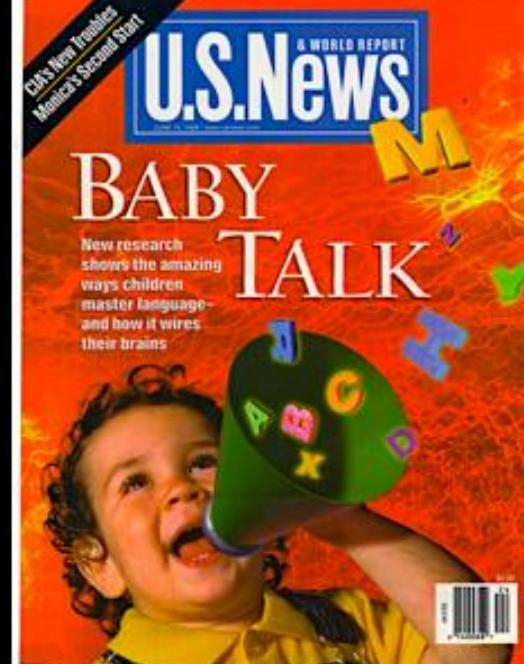


# TIME

TROY: THE MAKING OF AN EPIC

## SECRETS OF THE TEEN BRAIN

Research is revolutionizing our view of the adolescent mind—and explaining its mystifying ways

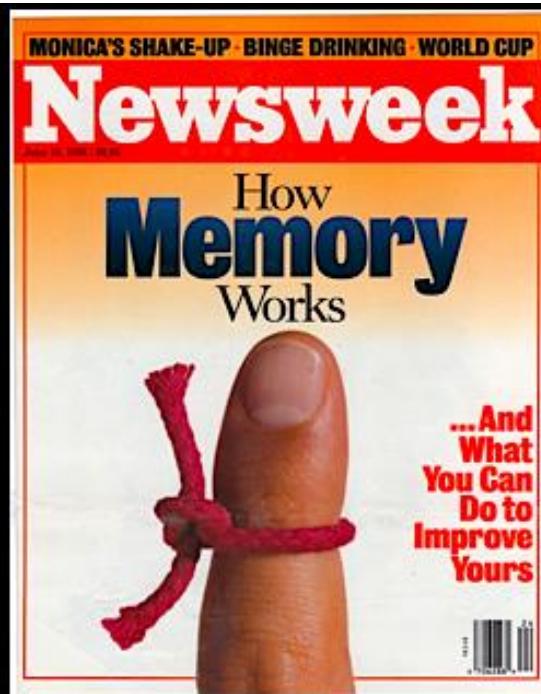
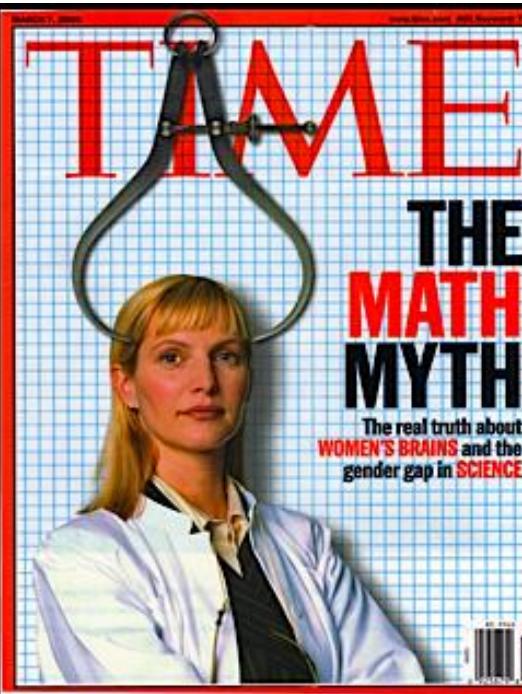
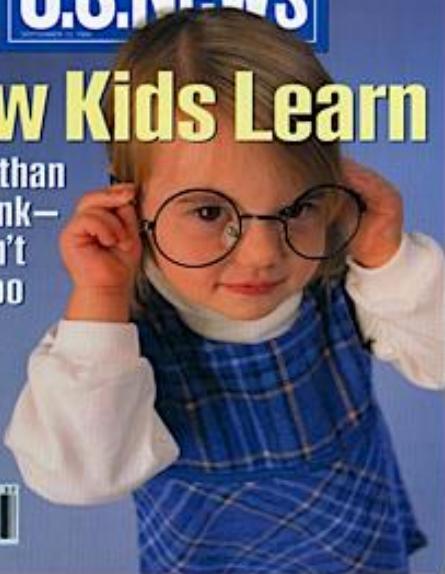


KILLER TRUCKS: THE DANGER TO MOTORISTS

**U.S. News**  
A WORLD REPORT

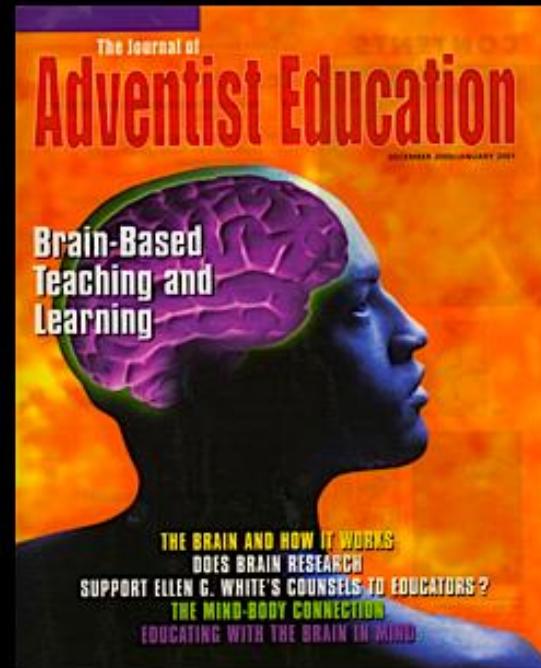
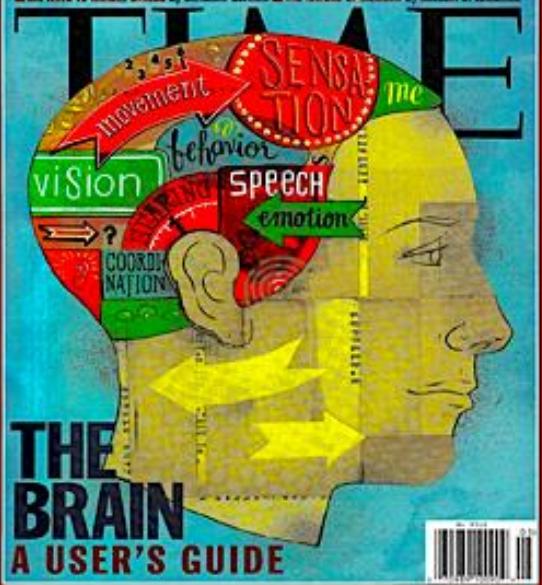
# How Kids Learn

Faster than  
you think—  
but don't  
push too  
hard



MIND & BODY SPECIAL ISSUE

THE MYSTERY OF CONSCIOUSNESS By Steven Pinker ■ HOW THE BRAIN REWIRKS ITSELF By Sharon Begley  
SEX WRITES TO HANDLE STRESS By Christine Gorman ■ THE NATURE OF MEMORY By Michael B. Levenson



# Student Achievement

*(this is how our success is measured)*



1

# Understanding Effect Sizes

Effect size is a standardized measure of the *relative size of the gain (or loss) of an intervention.*

**0.00 or less = Negative effect**

**0.00 – 0.20 = Negligible, unclear effects**

**0.20 – 0.40 = Small-moderate effects**

**0.40 – 0.60 = Strong effects**

**0.60 – 2.00 = Extreme positive effects**

These are just one way of understanding the value of educational/classroom factors. There are others.

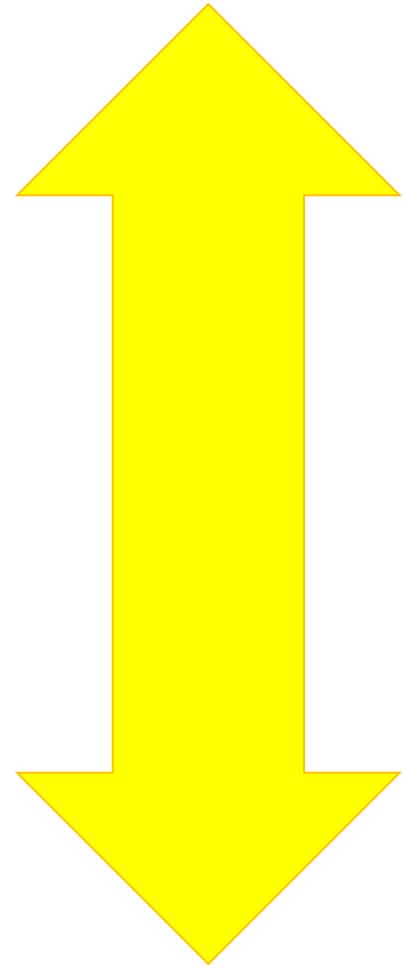
# Our Criteria for Quick Gains in Student Achievement: 5 Factors

- ✓ Effect size of (0.50 or greater)
- ✓ Peer-reviewed scientific research
- ✓ In the top 15 of multiple meta-studies
- ✓ School-based implementation evidence
- ✓ Cost effective: cheap/free to implement quickly, with low-mod. skill set needed.



# Rank these: the Highest to the Lowest Impact on Student Learning

1. Student self-assessment
2. Ongoing formative evaluations
3. Reciprocal teaching
4. Classroom climate
5. Teacher clarity
6. Feedback (in both directions)
7. Teacher-student relationships
8. Spaced vs. massed content
9. Cognitive skill building
10. Not labelling students
11. Socioeconomic status
12. Parental involvement



# Know What Matters Most

Student prediction of their grades (1.44 - 1)

**Instructional climate (.80 – 6)**

Teacher clarity (.75 – 8)

**Reciprocal/peer teaching (.74 – 9)**

Feedback (to students & teachers) (.73 –10)

**Student-teacher relationships (.72 –11)**

Teach meta-cognitive strategies (.69 –13)

**Socioeconomic status of student (.57 – 32)**

Class size (.21 –106)

**Ability grouping of your students (.12 –121)**

Teacher subject matter knowledge (.09 –125)

# Visible Achievement Factors in Every Class

1. Student engagement
2. Hope and growth mindset
3. Feedback (plus formative & summative assessment)
4. Relationships (multi-level)
5. Cognitive skill-building



# “High Return” Achievement Factor: Student Engagement

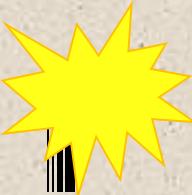
Student engagement is a “top 15” factor in nearly every comprehensive study.

- Appleton, J. J., Christenson, S. L. and Furlong, M. J. (2008), Student engagement with school: Critical conceptual and methodological issues of the construct. *Psychology in the Schools*, 45: 369–386.
- Ladd, Gary and Dinella, Lisa (2009) Continuity and Change in Early School Engagement: Predictive of Children's Achievement Trajectories From First to Eighth Grade? *Journal of Educational Psychology* Volume 101, Issue 1, Pages 190-206.
- Marks, H. (2000) Student Engagement in Instructional Activity: Patterns in the Elementary, Middle, and High School Years. *American Educational Research Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 1, 153-184 (2000).
- Shernoff, D., Csikszentmihalyi, M., Schneider, B. and Shernoff, E.S. (2003, Summer) Student engagement in high school classrooms from the perspective of flow theory. *School Psychology Quarterly*, 18(2):158-76.

# Effects of Engagement

- ✓ Builds Student Effort
- ✓ Supports Instructional Climate
- ✓ Helps Attentional Focus
- ✓ Boosts 3-1 Emotional Ratio
- ✓ Reduces Behavior Issues



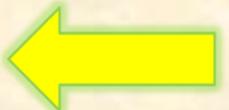


# *The Seven Engagement Factors*

1. **Health and nutrition.**
2. **Vocabulary.**
3. **Effort and energy.**
4. **Mind set.**
5. **Cognitive capacity.**
6. **Relationships.**
7. **Stress level.**



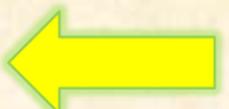
50-60%  
Teacher &  
School Quality



10% Misc.  
Influences



30-40% Genes  
(Some are  
modifiable)



How  
Much Do  
Teachers  
Matter?

# What Research Tells Us About the Effects of Poverty on Student Achievement

**RANGE:** effects change w/ grade level (from **0.10** to **0.76**)

(Howley, 1996) and Wenglinsky, H. (2002).

**AVERAGE:** The average effect size of SES is **0.57** with a ranking of **32<sup>nd</sup>** out of **138** factors.

Hattie, JA (2009) Visible Learning



# *How Would Your Staff Rank the Strength of Each of these 3 Effects on Student Achievement?*



**KID'S HOME  
LIFE**



**TEACHER  
QUALITY**



**SCHOOL  
QUALITY**

# Build Vocabulary Every Single Day

1. Use words that: 1) are on the tests and 2) get their attention.
2. Have a “Word for the Day.”
3. Student get credit for sharing their weekly word with 3 others.
4. Writing assignments w/ new words.
5. Kids say, “Caught you!” for word recognition games w/ teacher.
6. Double credit for kids speaking or writing the new word.
7. Teacher role models complex words.
8. Give examples they can use as adults in everyday life.



# Formative Assessment Factors and Their Related Effect Sizes

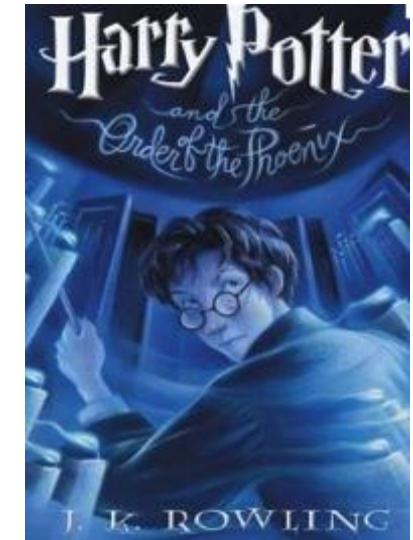
*Effect sizes below .40 are considered minimal*

- diagnosis feedback .52
- mastery learning (which is based on feedback) .50
- remediation and feedback .65
- corrective feedback .94
- feedback and reinforcement of learning 1.13



# Stick with What Works

**For reading:** 1) assess early, 2) skill-building interventions over months and years, 3) use very high-interest reading, and 4) build vocabulary constantly, and 5) build working memory.



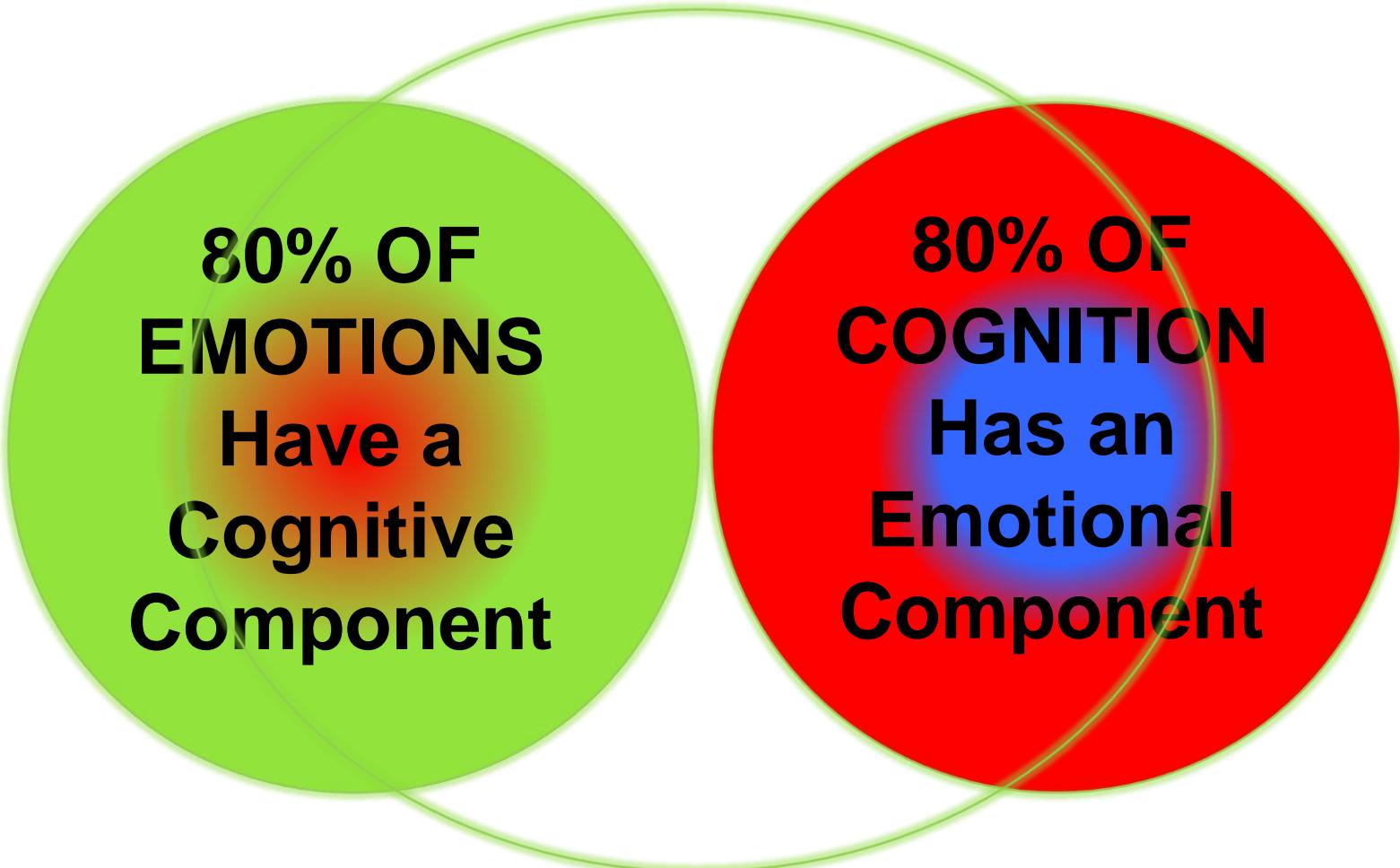
**For math:** 1) connect to real world, 2) teach estimation and numeracy, 3) build working memory skills, 4) build mindset.



## Value of Classroom Climate

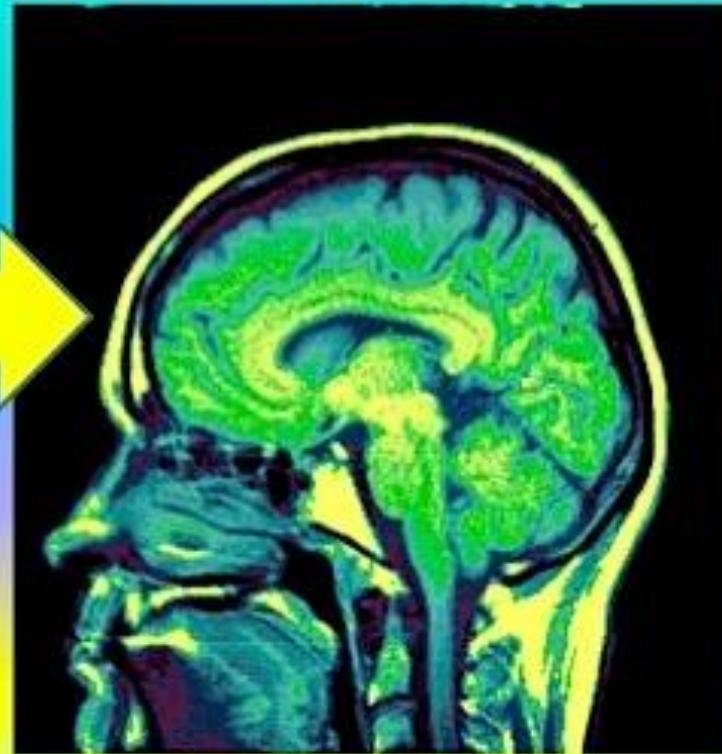
- Student motivation = 0.48
- Well-managed classroom = 0.52
- **Growth mindset = 0.56**
- Heightened engagement = 0.62
- Situational awareness = 0.71
- Students accept feedback better 0.90
- Appropriate teacher mental set = 1.29
- Teacher "With it-ness" = 1.42

# Cognition and Emotions Overlap



# Student Cognition and Behavior

Prefrontal Cortex is Driven by  
Genetic and Environmental  
Changes to Develop  
Executive Function



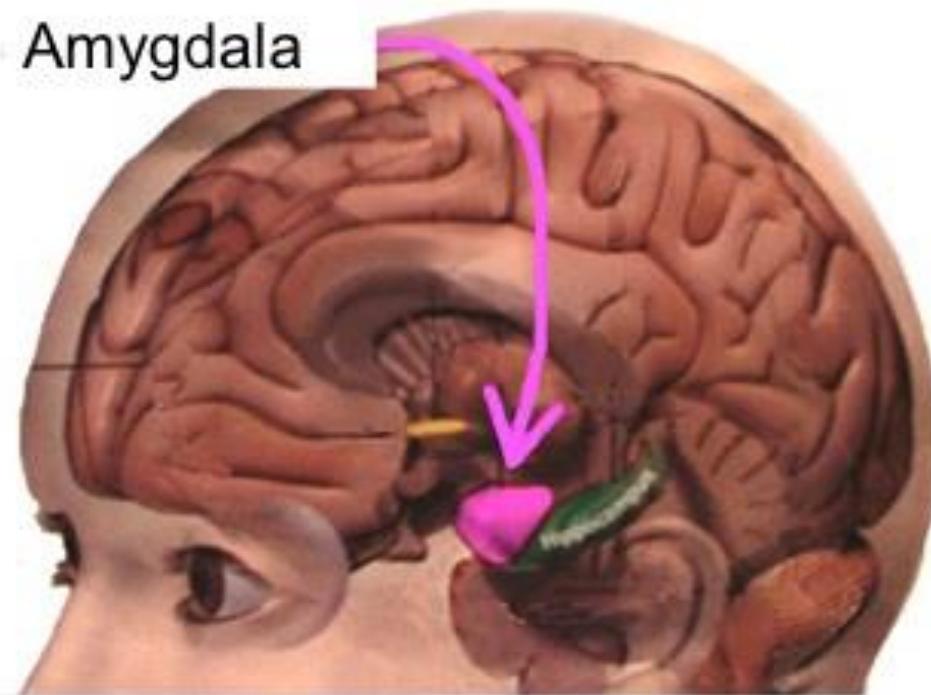
Inhibition  
Flexibility  
Self-Control  
Initiation

Organize  
Reasoning  
Planning  
Judgment

Self-Monitoring  
Delayed Gratification  
Risk analysis  
Reflection

# Fight, Flight or Freeze?

Once the amygdala is activated in class, it takes at least 30 – 90 minutes to calm down for quality learning.



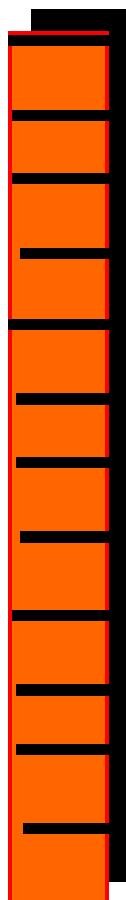
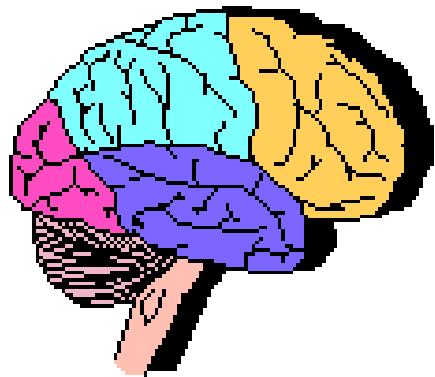
Threats, insults, put-downs and sarcasm activate the amygdala

# How Important are "Gaudy Goals" for Your Student's Achievement?

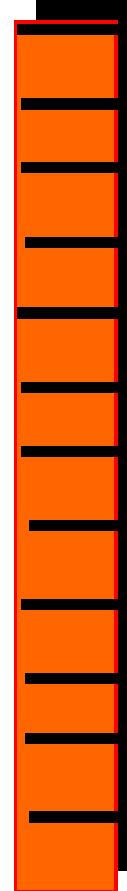
Student expectations are MASSIVE **1.44**. Teacher expectations of student success are a staggering **1.03** effect size. *Raise the bar until you gasp for air! Stop being afraid to fail. Your staff can feel your fear!*



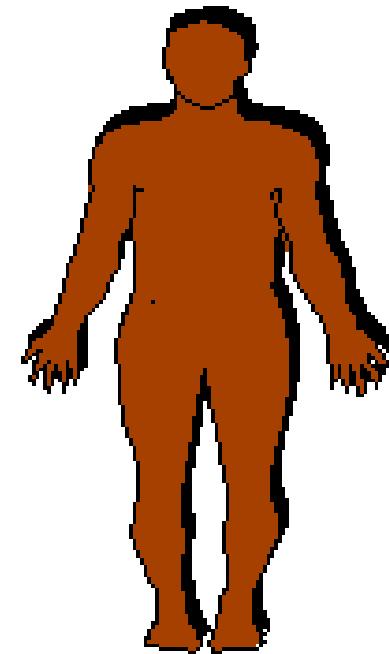
# Cognition



# Emotions

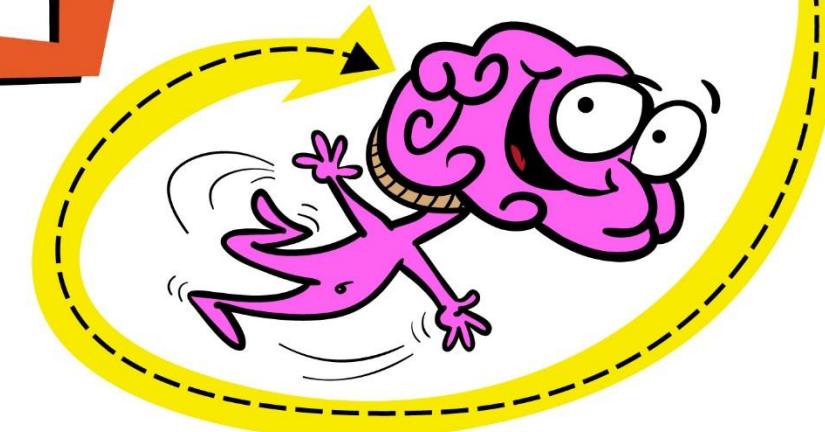


# Movement



**The separation model is NOT supported by recent brain research**

**MOVING  
UP &  
MOVING  
AROUND**



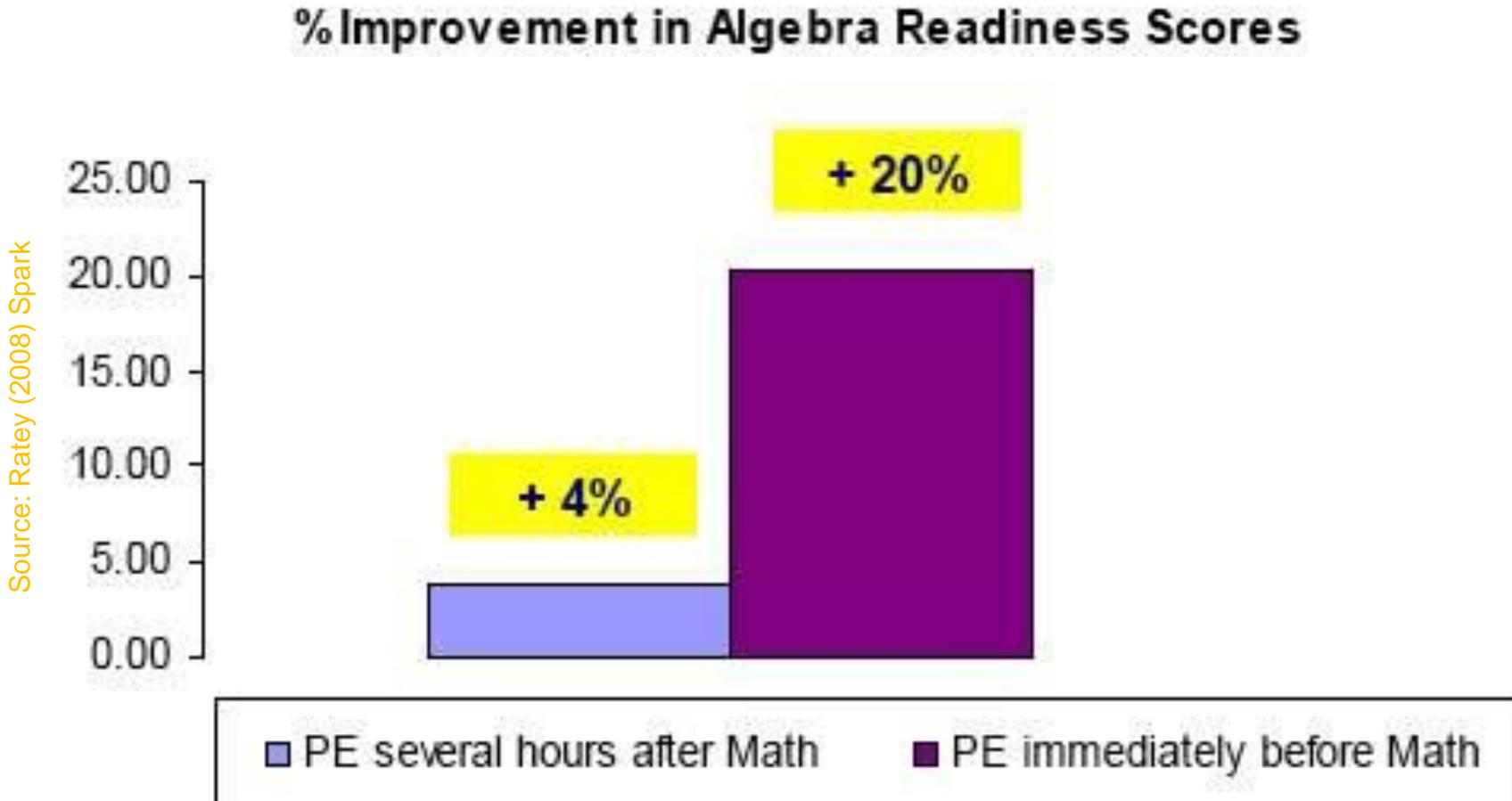
**KEEPS THE BRAIN  
& BODY SOUND**



Many educators are  
unaware that early  
physical activity  
supports later  
academic activity.



# Maths Scores up after PE Class



# How Does Exercise Influence the Student's Brain?

- It triggers BDNF, growth factors (Kesslak et al., 1998)
- Increases brain cell production (van Praag, et al. 1999)
- Upregulates serotonin (mood, attention, memory and neurogenesis) (Chaouloff, 1989)
- Raises heart rate (Krock et al., 1992)
- Increase catecholamines (Gillberg et al., 1986).
- Builds cortical mass (Anderson et al., 2002)
- Enhances cognitive arousal (Saklofske, et al. 1992)

# Music as a Tool of Engagement

- Students can be in charge of class music as long as they have your boundaries for it.
- Higher beats per minute increases good stress and energy levels.
- Familiar pop songs can spur memories of being active and having fun.



# COGNITIVE SKILL BUILDING

- ◆ Cognitive skill building is a way of increasing a student's capacity to learn.
- ◆ Cognitive skills provide the critical tools necessary for learning.
- ◆ Many cognitive skills can be taught but we usually do not address them.
- ◆ We can teach processing, attentional focus, self control, working memory, prioritization, ordering/sequencing and deferred gratification.
- ◆ Good executive functioning skills are essential to learning and they also can be taught.
- ◆ We can do this with teacher directed activities and with computer assisted instruction.
- ◆ We have identified programs for all grades that can be used to increase these skills.

# Which Factor, (When Tested at Age 5) is a *Far Greater Predictor* of Student Success at Age 11 than IQ?



- a) reading scores
- b) motivation level
- c) math scores
- d) attitude
- e) working memory

# Working Memory is Free, Easy to Build and It's a Teachable Skill

If You Don't Teach It,  
Don't Punish Kids for Not Being Good At It.



Klingberg T, Fernell E, Olesen P, Johnson M, Gustafsson P, Dahlström K, Gillberg CG, Forssberg H, Westerberg H (2005)

# Consequences of Poor Executive Functions in a School Environment

## Emotional Difficulties

- Aggression
- Mood Swings
- Depression & Anxiety
- Learned helplessness

## Risk Taking Behavior

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Aggression
- Conduct Problems
- Bullying

## Compulsive Behaviors

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Preoccupation with Appearance
- Self Mutilation

## Inattention / Distractibility

- Poor Academic Performance
- Planning Difficulties
- Test-Taking Difficulties
- AD/HD

Cognitive  
Skill  
Building  
BrainWare Safari



	Ancient Logic and Reasoning	Arrow Point Bridge	Bar Shuffle	Cave Comparisons	Crocodile Recollection	Ikigai Lookout	Jumping Jaguar Flash	Jungle Labyrinth	Llama Logic	Memory Mountain	Parrotling Colors	Piranha Pass	Rhythm Ribbet	Silhuetting Symbols	Sky Scanning	Tree Tic Tac Toe	Turtle Recall	Volcanic Patterns	Web Weaving	Whispering Waterfall	Attention Skills
Visual Sustained Attention		X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Auditory Sustained Attention													X								
Visual Selective Attention	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Auditory Selective Attention			X									X	X	X							X
Divided Attention	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X					X				X	
Flexible Attention		X	X	X					X	X	X	X		X	X						X
Visual Discrimination		X	X	X	X				X					X	X					X	
Visual Figure-Ground														X						X	
Visual Form Consistency		X						X	X												
Directionality	X	X		X							X					X					
Visual Span	X		X		X		X						X								
Visual Simultaneous Processing	X	X	X			X			X			X	X					X	X		
Visual Sequential Processing	X	X	X					X				X	X	X							
Visualization	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Visual Processing Speed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Oculomotor Skills					X	X				X			X		X		X				
Visual-Motor Integration					X	X					X								X	X	
Auditory-Motor Integration	X			X					X	X		X	X					X	X	X	
Timing-Rhythm	X		X	X				X	X		X	X						X	X	X	
Visual-Auditory Integration												X	X								
Auditory Discrimination													X						X		



LEC

	Ancient Logic and Reasoning	Arrow Point Bridge	Bear Shuffle	Cave Comparisons	Crocodile Recollection	Iguana Lookout	Jumping Jaguar Flash	Jungle Labyrinth	Llama Logic	Memory Mountain	Parrotling Colors	Piranha Pass	Rhythm Ribbet	Slithering Symbols	Sky Scanning	Tree Tic Tac Toe	Turtle Recall	Volcanic Patterns	Web Weaving	Whispering Waterfall	Auditory Processing	
Auditory Sequential Processing																					X	
Auditory Processing Speed																						
Visual Sensory Short-Term Memory	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Auditory Sensory Short-Term Memory			X									X	X	X							X	
Visual Immediate Short-Term Memory	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Auditory Immediate Short-Term Memory			X									X	X	X							X	
Working Memory	X	X	X						X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Visual Spatial Memory	X	X								X	X	X			X		X	X				
Long-Term Memory																	X					
Visual Sequential Memory	X	X										X	X									
Auditory Sequential Memory												X	X									
Visual Simultaneous Memory	X		X	X		X		X				X	X					X				
Logic	X							X			X		X			X						
Reasoning	X							X			X		X			X						
Planning								X			X		X			X						
Problem Solving	X							X	X		X		X			X						
Strategic Thinking	X							X	X		X		X			X						
Visual Thinking	X		X					X	X	X	X		X			X						
Conceptual Thinking	X							X														
Decision Speed			X					X			X		X			X						

Thinking Skills

Memory Skills

Name   
 Total Levels Completed: 168  
 Total Number of Days Played: 54  
 Days Since Last Attempt: 55

Date of Report: 3/27/2014 1:22:18 PM  
 First Login: 10/18/2013  
 Last Attempt: 1/31/2014  
 Total Exercise Time\*: 20 hours

View Level Attempts  View Level Time

Include Practice Attempts

**- Level Attempts -**

Attempts per level

Exercise Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arrow Point Bridge	1	1	1	1	1	1	2*
Bear Shuffle	1	1	2	1	2	2	5*
Cave Comparisons	4	1	3	1	2	2	1*
Crocodile Recollection	1	2	1	1	1	1	1*
Iguana Lookout	1	4	6	16	15	8	93*
Jumping Jaguar Flash	1	1	1	1	7	1	5*
Jungle Labyrinth	4	2	2	5	11	9	81*
Memory Mountain	5	1	1	3	4	3	2*
Parrotting Colors	1	3	1	1	2	1	1*
Piranha Pass	15	6	6	6	5	4	8*
Rhythm Ribbet	3	1	1	4	4	1	79*
Sky Scanning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1*
Slithering Symbols	3	2	1	1	1	1	1*
Tree Tic Tac Toe	1	6	2	12	1	4	1*
Turtle Recall	4	2	10	10	2	22	11*
Volcanic Patterns	1	1	1	1	1	1	1*
Web Weaving	1	1	1	1	1	1	2*
Whispering Waterfall	4	1	1	2	1	1	3*

Attempts per level

Exercise Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Ancient Logic and Reasoning	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Llama Logic	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	

Legend: ► = Level Success | ■ = Level Fail | \* = Exercise Complete | \*Total Time includes practice attempts.

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OVERALL BPI

812

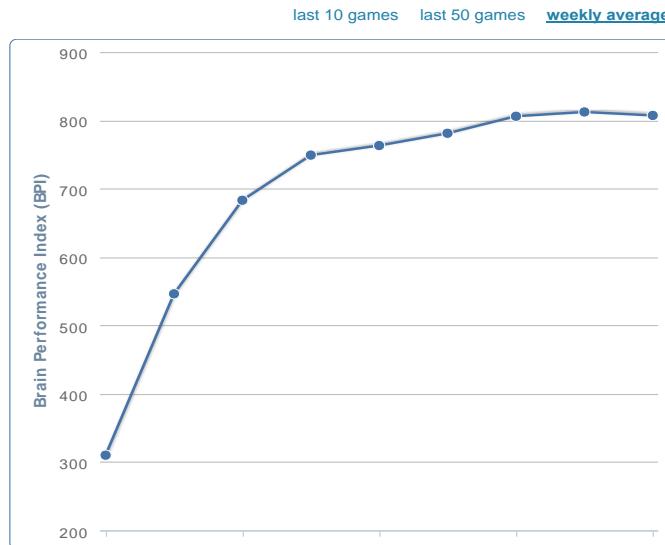
LUMOSITY POINTS

0 0 5 7 3

## History

Overall  
Speed  
Memory  
Attention  
Flexibility  
Problem Solving

### Your Overall BPI History



COMPANY  
LUMOSITY  
RESOURCES

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104768 ⚡

OVERALL BPI

812

LUMOSITY POINTS

0 0 5 7 3

## History

Overall

Speed

Memory

Memory Matrix 2

Memory Matrix

Mobile: iPad

Memory Match

Monster Garden

Face Memory

Workout

Pinball Recall

Follow That Frog

Pinball Recall

Mobile: iPad

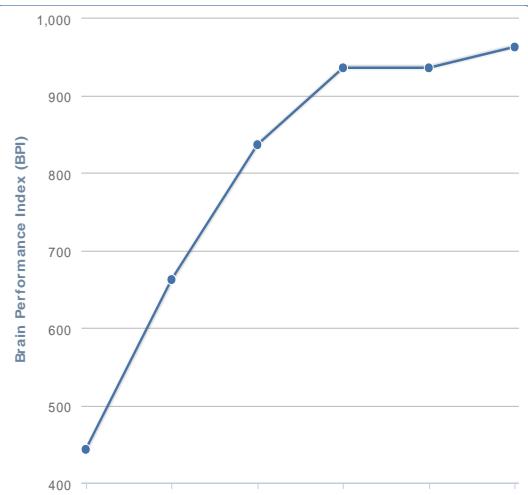
Attention

Flexibility

Problem Solving

### Your Memory BPI History

last 10 games last 50 games weekly average



#### COMPANY

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OVERALL BPI

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LUMOSITY POINTS

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## History

Overall

Speed

Memory

Attention

Flexibility

Problem Solving

Raindrops Mobile:

iPad

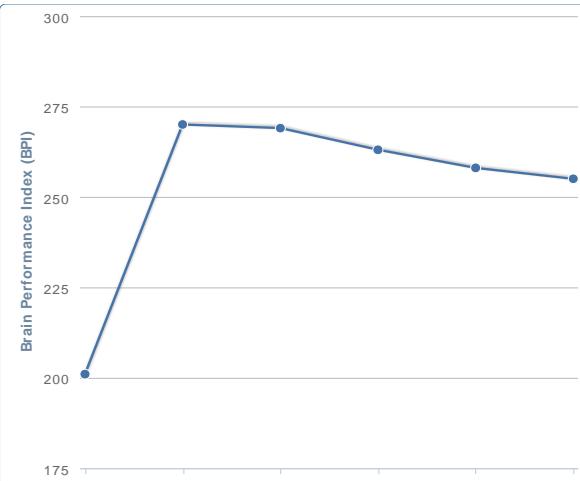
Chalkboard

Challenge Mobile:

iPad

### Your Problem Solving BPI History

last 10 games last 50 games weekly average



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OVERALL BPI

812

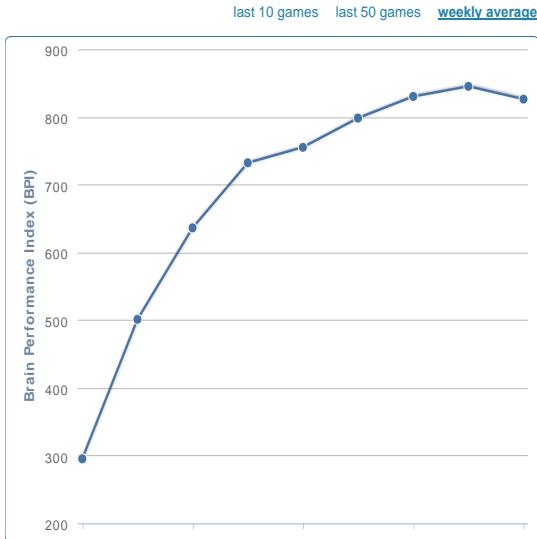
LUMOSITY POINTS

0 0 5 7 3

## History

Overall  
Speed  
Memory  
Attention  
**Lost in Migration 2**  
**Lost in Migration**  
**Mobile: iPad**  
Flexibility  
Problem Solving

### Your Attention BPI History



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Brain Profile History User Profile

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OVERALL BPI

812

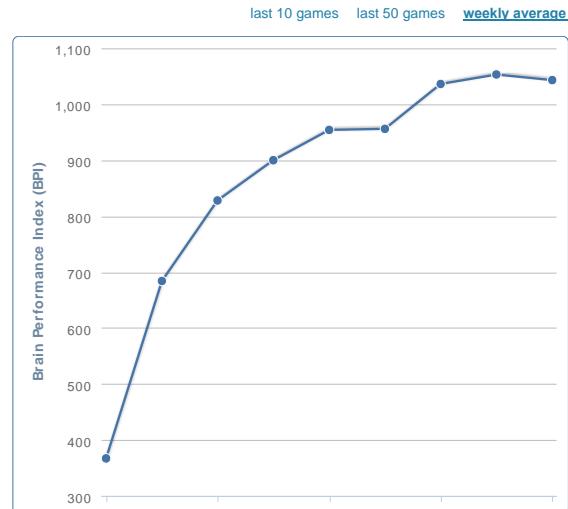
LUMOSITY POINTS

0 0 5 7 3

## History

Overall  
Speed  
Memory  
Attention  
Flexibility  
**Disillusion**  
Brain Shift 2  
Ebb and Flow  
Brain Shift Mobile:  
iPad  
Color Match 2  
Color Match  
Mobile: iPad  
Problem Solving

### Your Flexibility BPI History



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# “High Return” Achievement Factors

*(my personal favorites)*

1. Student en \_\_\_\_\_
2. Instructional Climate w/ h \_\_\_\_\_  
and gr \_\_\_\_\_ min \_\_\_\_\_
3. Feedback (ongoing, formative  
and summative) w/ 3-1 ratio
4. R \_\_\_\_\_ (multi-level)
5. Cognitive Sk \_\_\_\_\_ Buil \_\_\_\_\_

## || *To succeed, our teachers need to believe...*

- 1) ALL (100%) kids can learn, grow and change because...
- 2) The human brain is designed to adapt from experience, and...
- 3) To change kid's brains, teachers must FIRST change their teaching

# || *Keep it Urgent!*



You only get about 25 hours per week, for 36 weeks a year with kids. That means you can't afford to waste critical time with your kids bored, distressed, angry or failing. You can't afford to diminish a dream or put anyone down. At best, you'll get 900 hours (15%) per year (of their 5,800 waking hours). *You will see results if you use every minute you have!*

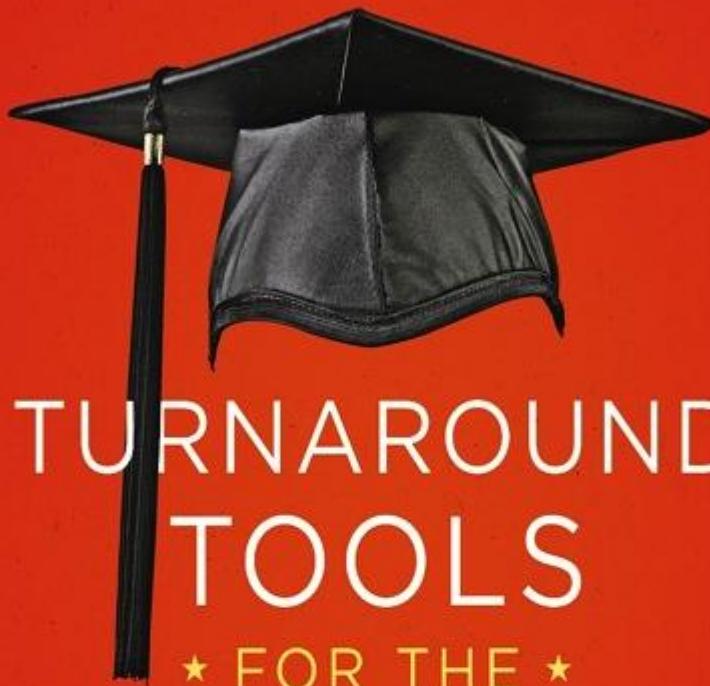
ERIC JENSEN

ENGAGING  
STUDENTS WITH  
*poverty*  
IN MIND



PRACTICAL STRATEGIES  
FOR RAISING ACHIEVEMENT

Eric Jensen & Carole Snider



TURNAROUND  
TOOLS  
★ FOR THE ★  
TEENAGE  
BRAIN

Helping Underperforming Students  
Become Lifelong Learners