
SCOPE OF BRAIN-BASED LEARNING

Scope of Brain-Based Learning

Definition: "Brain-Based learning is a dynamic, interdisciplinary, system-wide approach based on the way current research in neuroscience suggests our brain naturally learns best."

It impacts five major areas:

Instructional Strategies Principles include:

- 1) Integration of mind-body learning
- 2) Strong learner choices offered
- 3) Emphasis on novelty, ritual and challenge
- 4) Greater use of natural memory
- 5) More immediate learner feedback
- 6) Multi-Path strategies
- 7) Emphasis on nonconscious processing
- 8) Learner-constructed meaning

The Environment Principles include:

- 1) Create a secure, safe environment with an absence of threat
- 2) Use of collaborative, trusting relationships
- 3) Make it physically comfortable
- 4) Rich, real-life and multi-sensory
- 5) Greater time flexibility

Curriculum Principles are:

- 1) Integrated, multi-disciplinary thematic content
- 2) More relevant, real-life learning
- 3) Greater learner choice
- 4) Longer time on fewer, more complex topics
- 5) Process mastery as part of learning goals.

Assessment Principles include:

- 1) Demonstration of solid content mastery
- 2) Defense of personal biases
- 3) Demonstration of the interdisciplinary relationships
- 4) Revelation of mental models
- 5) Revelation of personal relevance or, when appropriate, of local, national or global relevance
- 6) Specific "how-to" strategies
- 7) Observable behavior changes

Organizational Structures Principles are:

- 1) Clarity and unity of purpose
- 2) Learning as the primary priority
- 3) Institutionalized, self-correcting systems
- 4) Environment of safety and dialogue
- 5) Support of staff and learner for personal and professional growth development
- 6) A Bottom-up driven, non-bureaucratic management method system-wide buy-in of the methodology of brain-based learning