



CREATING DYNAMIC LEARNING COMMUNITIES
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Schools Exceeding Expectations (SEE) Conference
Maryville, Tennessee – April 29-May 2, 2009

Book Talk

A Mind at a Time

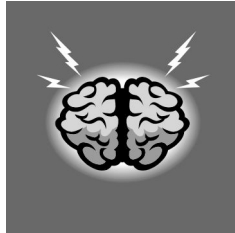
Presented by Denise White

2009 SEE Conference – Saturday, May 2, 2009

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A Mind at a Time

By Dr. Mel Levine



A Book Talk

Hosted by Denise White

Why did Dr. Levine Write *A Mind at a Time*?

- To shed light on the the brain's challenges.
- To provide a road map for parents and teachers to observe and detect breakdowns in learning as early as possible.
- As a call to arms to recognize there are many kinds of minds and we need to meet their needs.



What are Some of the Mind's Challenges?

“Each of us is endowed with a highly complex, inborn circuitry—creating innumerable branching pathways of options and obstacles. While some of us have brain's wired to handle a lot of information at once, others have brains that can absorb and process only a little information at a time (often with greater accuracy.)”



“It is taken for granted in adult society that we cannot all be generalists skilled in every area...but we apply tremendous pressure on children to be good at everything.”



What are the Eight Systems of the Mind?

- Attention Control System
- Memory System
- Language System
- Spatial and Sequential Ordering Systems
- Motor System
- Higher Thinking System
- Social Thinking System



How Can We Detect Breakdowns Learning?

- Trouble mastering skills
- Trouble acquiring facts or knowledge
- Trouble accomplishing output
- Trouble understanding
- Trouble approaching tasks systematically
- Trouble with the rate and amount of demands



How Can We Help Realign (Not Redesign) a Mind?

- Demystification:** helping kids understand themselves.
- Accommodations:** sometimes bypassing their weaknesses
- Interventions at the Breakdown Points:** trying to repair the gaps
- Strengthening Strengths:** cultivating a kid's assets
- Protection from Humiliation**
- Using Professional Therapies**



“Some price, modest or substantial, must be paid anytime a mind is forced or attempts to learn or perform something in a way for which it is not wired. This happens to all of us from time to time, but the outcome is tragic when the mismatching of a mind becomes a daily event. This phenomenon takes place in schools every day.”

