



CREATING DYNAMIC LEARNING COMMUNITIES
at school • at home • at work



Summer Institute

June 14-16, 2009

Stage 1

The Learning Environment

Presented by Sue Pearson & Patty Harrington


2009 Summer Institute – Granlibakken, Lake Tahoe, California

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SUMMER INSTITUTE 2009

Stage One:

Creating the Environment for Learning






The Center for Effective Learning
 Susan Kovalik & Associates
 Sue Pearson & Patty Harrington

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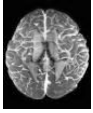
M&M: Mix and Mingle

- Walk while the music is playing. 
- When the music stops, you stop. 
- Find a partner and pair up. 
- No Partner? Raise your hand and find one or form a triad. 
- Person with shortest hair goes first. 
- Introduce yourself-share name, hometown, teaching assignment, hobby. 
- Repeat as directed. 

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BRAIN FACTS

- Adult brain weight: 1300-1400 grams: about 2.5-3 pounds
- Water composition: 77-78%
- Average number of neurons: 100 billion
- Number of synapses for typical neuron: 1,000-10,000
- Percent of blood flow from heart to brain: 15-20%

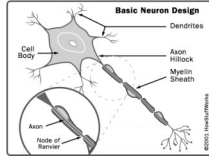


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Basic Building Blocks of Learning

Neuron (brain cell):

- Processes and transmits information
- Experiences provide rich sensory environment/growth
- Gray matter-myelination of axons
- Synapses-connection between nerve cell and target cell-release of chemical neurotransmitter

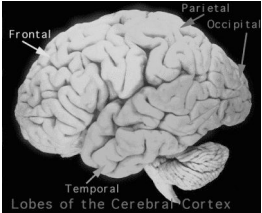


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Brain Structures

FRONTAL

- reasoning
- planning
- parts of speech
- movement
- emotions
- problem-solving



Lobes of the Cerebral Cortex

PARIETAL

- movement
- orientation
- recognition
- perception of stimuli

TEMPORAL

- perception and recognition of auditory stimuli, memory and speech


OCCIPITAL

- associated with visual processing

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Sing-along

- Front to back, from right to left,
- Front to back, from right to left
- Front to back, from right to left,
- That's how memory works.
- *Frontal, parietal, temporal, occipital*
- *Frontal, parietal, temporal, occipital*
- *Frontal, parietal, temporal, occipital,*
- *Cerebellum, brain stem*




Ten Little Indians-tune

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Sing-along

- *Thinking, feeling, hearing, seeing*
- *Thinking, feeling, hearing, seeing*
- *Thinking, feeling, hearing, seeing*
- *Movement and staying alive*




Ten Little Indians-tune 7

EMOTIONS and the BRAIN

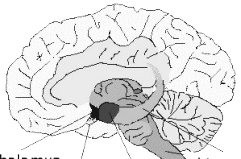
“Emotions drive attention which drives learning, memory, problem-solving and just about everything else.”
 ~ Robert Sylwester ~

The structures of the limbic system constitute an emotional switching station in the brain making learning and performance an emotionally-driven function.



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LIMBIC SYSTEM



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Homeostasis •Temp •Blood pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hypothalamus pituitary •Growth hormones •Anterior-endorphins •Posterior-oxytocin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amygdala •Arousal •Emotional responses •Fear responses •Hormonal Secretions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hippocampus •Consolidation of new memories •Spatial orientation •Navigation
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Mirror Neurons




- A mirror neuron is a neuron which fires both when an animal performs an action and when the animal observes the same action performed by another animal of the same species (conspecific).
- Thus, the neuron "mirrors" the behavior of another animal, as though the observer were itself performing the action.
- Mirror neurons allow us to understand the actions of others and for learning new skills by imitation.

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MIRROR NEURONS


Neuroscientist V. S. Ramachandran suggested that the discovery of mirror neurons might provide the same powerful unifying framework for teaching and learning as the discovery of DNA did for understanding genetics.



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4 HET Learning Principles

There are four basic principles from brain research that expedite learning and memory. These principles are valuable in determining what's worth teaching as we develop curriculum and instructional strategies that best meet the needs of learners.









- Intelligence is a function of experience
- Learning is an inseparable partnership between the brain and body
- There are multiple intelligences
- Learning is a two-step process of pattern detection and program building

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HET Learning Principle 1

Intelligence is a function of experience

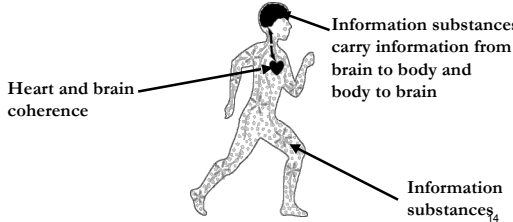
- **BEING THERE (19)** 
- **IMMERSION (13)** 
- **HANDS-ON-REAL OBJECTS (9)** 
- **HANDS-ON-REPRESENTATION (4)** 
- **2nd HAND (3)** 
- **SYMBOLIC (2)** 

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HET Learning Principle 2

Learning is an inseparable partnership between the brain and the body.

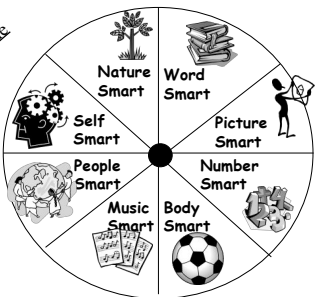
- Emotion is the gatekeeper to learning and performance.
- Movement enhances learning.



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HET LEARNING PRINCIPLE 3

There are multiple intelligences



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Concept: Community



- A set of relationships
- Based on proximity, characteristics, similarities
- Sharing of common goals/identities/interests
- A group of plants and animals living and interacting with one another in a specific region under relatively similar environmental conditions.
- The region occupied by a group of interacting organisms.
- A body of individuals living in a defined area or having a common interest or organization

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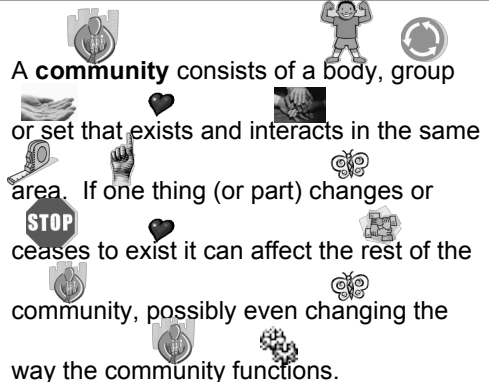
Organizing Concept: Community



A community consists of a body, group or set that exists and interacts in the same area. If one thing (or part) changes or ceases to exist it can affect the rest of the community, possibly even changing the way the community functions.

Rationale: Responsible citizens make wise choices that strengthen the entire community.

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TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Three Stages of Group Development In Town Hall Meetings

- **Build a “Sense of Belonging”** -get to know oneself and others. “How I can be responsible as a single citizen?”
- **Find Common Ground** -Find commonalities; identify issues and problems; brainstorm; develop plans; work together; “How can I work with others in my community to be responsible citizens?”
- **Take Action** -implement plans, solve problems, celebrate; work for the greater good! “What actions can we take for the greater good of our community/world?”

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TOWN HALL: Sense of Belonging

- Deal pieces of your paper heart to all members of your Learning Club- some may have one more piece than others
- Illustrate your pieces with things you like to do
- Cover one side of your heart with clear contact paper
- Discuss what you have in common and create a name for your LC
- Be prepared to share one thing you have in common as well as your LC name

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Variety of Uses for Town Hall Meetings

• Conflict resolution	• Problem solving
• Reflections	• KWL
• Discuss feelings	• Appreciations
• Review procedures	• Goal setting
• Review content	• Review of day
• Ice breakers	• Study trip reflections
• Direct instruction	• Energizers
• Daily agendas	• Introduce new content
• LG/LIFESKILLS discussions	• Plan events
	• Inclusion of new students

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(Exceeding Expectations, 3rd edition)

Stage One: Class Management Strategy: Australia (It's Terrible, Horrible, No-Good Very Bad Day-Viorst)

- Set aside an area for silent reflection.
- Students decide when to visit although a teacher may suggest it. This area is not used for “punishment”.
- Beanbag chair, rocking chair, bed pillow, cushion.
- Posted procedures
- Guest book/sign-in (optional)-casual timer
- CD Player-40-60 beats p/minute; headphones
- First day, draw names.

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Classroom Management Strategy: Australia Procedure

- One person at a time in reflective silence.
- Sign-in-guestbook.
- Flip timer.
- Listen to music/write in journal/think.
- When your time is up, quietly return to your place.







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TARGET TALK


- Use the child’s name. “Mike, . . .”
- Identify the LG/LS. “Mike, you used the LIFESKILL of Friendship . . .”
- Link the action. “Mike, you used the LIFESKILL of friendship when you invited Kareem, our new student to play with you at recess.”

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Appreciation Procedure

- Notice someone using a Lifelong Guideline, LIFESKILL or being a responsible citizen. 
- Select one hand cut-out for a "HIGH FIVE" appreciation. 
- Write the person's name on one side of the hand. Ann 
- Write the actions you saw them do on the other side of the hand. Add your name if you want. 
- Place the finished hand in the "Appreciations" Gift Bag. 
- Sharing will be during Town Hall. 


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T-CHART _____

Looks Like	Sounds Like	Feels Like


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How Do We Start?



DEFINE	TARGET TALK T-CHART MUSIC	REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS
SCHOOL CONNECTIONS	LITERATURE	ROLE PLAYING/ SKITS
VIDEO CLIPS	PROJECTS/ INQUIRIES	SOCIAL/ POLITICAL ACTION IN COMMUNITY




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Daily Agenda

- The brain likes to know where it is going.
- Forces teacher to be organized.
- Prevents bird-walking (getting off topic).
- Teaches the graphic organizer format of mind-mapping.
- Teaches students organization/time management skills.
- Share with parents when asked, "What did you do in school today?"

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Procedures




Procedures are:

- Written behaviors and expectations for social interactions.
- Written/Printed out for students
- Useful for guest teachers and new students
- Visual-clipart/photos included
- In binders, on overheads, in computers

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Writing Procedures



- Start each sentence with a VERB (action)
- Use alternating colors for each sentence (visual acuity)
- List actions in the order you expect them to be done.
- Add clip art/photo for non-readers and/or ESL students.
- Practice, practice, practice





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Bathroom Procedures

- Be quick! 
- Be quiet. 
- Be clean. 






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Town Hall Procedures

- Push in your chair. 
- Walk quietly to the circle. 
- Sit in listening shape. 
- Use Active Listening. 



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Guest Teacher Procedures

- Greet the guest teacher. 
- Be friendly. Introduce yourself. 
- Offer to help find materials. 
- Remind each other to use Personal Best all day. 
- Think about behavior you might change for the next guest teacher visit. 

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Movement and Music as Classroom Management Strategies

- Movement is crucial to every brain function, including memory, emotion, language, and learning. 
- Music can calm, energize, and help students learn content through rhyme, rhythm, and repetition. 





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Music

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun-The Bear Went Over the Mountain • Skill-Hokey-Pokey • SS/Science-LS songs, habitat, community, animals, space, government • Math-shapes, numbers, economics/money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA-punctuation, story parts, contractions, parts of speech • Movement-Y.M.C.A, Macarena (months, times tables) • Calming-40-60 beats per minute regulates heart • Theme music
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Research says:

- Color influences attitudes, behavior, and learning. 
- Affects attention span and sense of time. 
- Color choices can reduce absenteeism and promote positive feelings. 
- Cool colors and dim lighting promote relaxed muscles, lower heart action and blood pressure. 

<http://www.coe.uga.edu/sdpl/researchabstracts/visual.html>






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Lighting

- Affects ability to perceive visual stimuli, mental attitude, and, thus, performance
- Can affect test scores, attendance, tardiness and health
- Key to the well-being of people confined to a physical facility for a great portion of the day
- Can lead to greater productivity






<http://www.coe.uga.edu/sdpl/researchabstracts/visual.html> 37

Regular Fluorescent Lights

- Can lead to seizures for some students with epilepsy 
- Increases hyperactivity 
- Dying ballast is distracting-humming
- More time off task 
- Distort colors/images 
- Strains/Tires eyes 





<http://www.coe.uga.edu/sdpl/researchabstracts/visual.html> 38

Natural/Incandescent Lighting

- Higher attendance rate-fewer absences 
- Fewer cavities 
- Higher test scores 
- Create positive mood 
- Ability to concentrate increases 

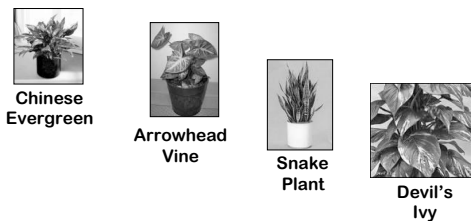
<http://www.coe.uga.edu/sdpl/researchabstracts/visual.html> 39

Suggestions

- Turn off fluorescent lights (at least some of them). 
- When the bulb burns out, don't tell anyone! 
- Open blinds/pull up shades 
- Add some small table/floor lamps; turn them on 

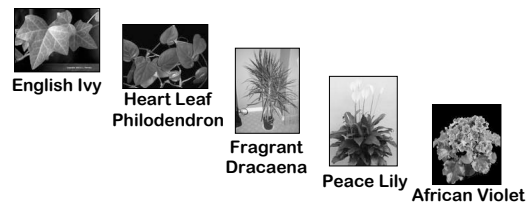
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Plants to Lower Blood Pressure



<http://www.aolhealth.com/healthy-living/home-remedies/houseplants-health-benefits> 41


Plants to Fight Colds




Add moisture to the air

<http://www.aolhealth.com/healthy-living/home-remedies/houseplants-health-benefits> 42


Plants to Cut Toxins



Janet Craig



Sweet Chico




Kentia Palm


When plants take in oxygen and carbon dioxide, they also pull in VOCs, toxins released by cleaning supplies, printers, and other household items.

<http://www.aolhealth.com/healthy-living/home-remedies/houseplants-health-benefits> 43


Plants to Boost Creativity



Strawberry Begonia



Spider Plant



Corn Plant

Women generated more ideas, did better on word matching and had more creative energy.

<http://www.aolhealth.com/healthy-living/home-remedies/houseplants-health-benefits> 44

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- Examples:
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 - Coaching
 - Customized trainings: 1 to 5 days
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 - Patty Harrington: PHbase@aol.com
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