

“Big Ideas” from Teaching with the Brain in Mind

1. Brains are cool
2. Teaching to different brains is like teaching to different learning styles
3. What happens in the brain impacts students abilities to learn
4. Repetition is key
5. Priming and re-teaching
6. Use it or lose it
7. The more synapses and brain connections, the better
8. Students need movement to improve learning
9. Basic needs must be met before learning can occur
10. The more often information is repeated, the longer it is retained
11. Brains need sleep to make connections and retain information
12. Brains respond to threats first
13. Teens have a short attention span (10 minutes).
14. It's important to chunk tasks.
15. Must apply new learning to prior knowledge
16. Teenage brain processes quite differently from adult brains
17. Rests and breaks are important
18. No two brains are the same
19. Teachers need to use a variety and diversity of teaching tools
20. School framework, as it exists now, does not capitalize on the physiology of the teen brain
21. We can implement “brain in mind” strategies to improve learning.
22. 10 minute rule of direct instruction
23. Kids see things (like facial expressions) differently than adults
24. The teenage brain is pruning and making new connections; “gaps” in behavior and decision making are expected.
25. Give wait time for the brain to have time to process