Better Early than Late!

**BETTER EARLY THAN LATE!**

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Marilyn Lambert FCET,
NILD CANADA INSTRUCTOR,
SEARCH & TEACH PROVIDER,
INSTRUCTOR

**BETTER EARLY THAN LATE! - OVERVIEW**

- Importance of Early Identification
- Tools for Screening - specifically SEARCH
- Early Intervention: Research & Method - TEACH
- Ideas for Effective Teaching

**IMPORTANCE OF EARLY IDENTIFICATION - EVIDENCE FROM BRAIN DEVELOPMENT**

- Period of rapid changes: pruning of neurons for effective functioning and communication
- New experiences connect with prior ones, causing new synapses to form and strengthen
- Changes made now affect future learning
- Important not to rush formal learning
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SOMETIMES ……

- Migration or pruning differences - cognitive or processing difficulty, developmental delays
- Who’s Affected?
- If there are delays, won’t the child catch up on their own if given time?

IDENTIFICATION – RESULTS FROM IMPORTANCE OF EARLY IDENTIFICATION – RESULTS FROM EXPERIENCE

- Continued lack of success
- Undeveloped social skills - peer rejection
- Frustration/anxiety - give up or resist
- Drain on special education services
- Poor life choices

Brain Progression
### Tools for Screening

- Comprehensive Test of Phonological Skills (CTOPP – 2)
- Tests of Early Language and Literacy (TELL)
- Phonemic Awareness (PA)
- Rapid Automatic Naming (RAN)
- Predictive Assessment of Reading (PAR)
- Executive Function (EF)
- Search – Search and Teach

### Search Screening Tool

- Evidence based – 25 years of testing with SK, Grade 1
- 25 min. Individualized scan designed to locate children vulnerable to learning failure due to neuropsychological maturation in areas basic to academic learning

### Composition of Search – 10 Sub-Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Perception</th>
<th>Sub-Tests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Perception</td>
<td>Discrimination, Recall &amp; Visual-motor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditory Perception</td>
<td>Discrimination &amp; Rote Sequencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermodal Tests</td>
<td>Articulation &amp; Intermodal Dictation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Image Tests</td>
<td>Directionality, Finger Schema &amp; Praxis</td>
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</tbody>
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**BENEFITS OF USING SEARCH SCAN**

1. Provides profile of strengths and weaknesses
2. Identifies vulnerability & provides a detailed intervention structure
3. Provides helpful ideas for parents to implement at home

**RECENT RESEARCH SUPPORTS EARLY INTERVENTION**

1st, 2nd & 3rd graders in Toronto, Boston & Atlanta

“These findings provide evidence on the importance of early intensive, evidence-based intervention for reading problems in the primary grades.”

**TEACH - EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

1. Contains 55 tasks
2. Coordinated with SEARCH
3. Tasks are sequenced in order of difficulty within clusters
4. Uses perceptual stimulation
IDEAS FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING

• Play, Play, Play – integrate learning
• Sorting, matching & categorizing mb patterns
• Novelty
• Teach using all the senses
• Long-term memories form through prior experiences
• Input does not always equal intake
• All children deserve to learn

RESOURCES

• How the Brain Learns to Read: David A. Sousa. 2015
• Building the Reading Brain, PreK-3: Patricia Wolfe, Pamela Neviles. 2010
• Wiring the Brain for Reading; Brain-Based Strategies for Teaching Literacy: Marilee Sprenger. 2013
• Different Learners: Jane M. Healy. 2010
• Einstein Never Used Flashcards: Kathy Hirsh-Pasek & Roberta Michnick Golinkoff. 2003
• www.nildcanada.org Search and Teach