



NILD Canada's 2024 Annual Conference

Workshop Synopsis & Speaker Bios

Session I: Neuroeducation & Cognitive Functions

Presenter: Lorri Wilke

This presentation focuses on the intersection of neuroscience and education, aiming to increase understanding of how the human brain works in learning. By delving into relevant research from the brain sciences, neuromyths and education myths will be debunked. The Building Blocks of Learning model will be reviewed, increasing participants' ability to recognize students' cognitive strengths and weaknesses. The session will also investigate brain-based strategies that can be applied to the classroom and your educational therapy sessions, offering practical insights for enhancing the learning experience based on a neuroscientific perspective.

Session II: Exploring Connections between the WISC-V and Cognitive Functions

Presenter: Lorri Wilke

In this presentation, participants will review the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-V (WISC-V) and Professor Reuven Feuerstein's cognitive functions. The components and goals of the WISC-V will be examined, recognizing their relevance in assessing intelligence and abilities in learners. By exploring the cognitive functions, participants will gain insights into their theoretical framework while also discovering connections between specific cognitive functions and specific components of the WISC-V. This offers a nuanced understanding of how these elements intersect. Practical applications will be explored, providing assistance for customizing educational plans for learners. By integrating formal assessments and an understanding of cognitive functions, educational strategies and student outcomes can be improved.



Lorri Wilke M.Ed., PCET, C/SLDS, is a dedicated professionally certified educational therapist with over 30 years of education experience in the Chicago suburbs. As a Feuerstein trainer, NILD instructor, and certified Structured Literacy/Dyslexia Specialist, Lorri specializes in supporting struggling learners, including those with dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD, and more. Currently completing a Ph.D. in Reading, Language, and Literacy, Lorri is committed to advancing her expertise. Through her private practice, she works to empower students with skills and habits that foster academic success and, ultimately, lifelong learning. Lorri's passion

lies in making a positive impact on the lives of learners by unlocking their full potential through customized educational interventions.

Session III: NILD Educational Therapy in Action

Presenter: Lori Westlake

Join us for a condensed live demo with Lori and one of her first-year educational therapy students. Watch the powerful connection, discovery and mediation that occurs as Lori demonstrates the 5 core techniques in a therapy session. There will be a Q&A afterwards to discuss the cognitive functions you observed.



Lori Westlake is a Professionally Certified Educational Therapist in Mississauga Ontario. She is married with 2 adult daughters and 1 teenage son. Her children were her motivation to explore educational therapy and start working with other families. Over 10 years ago, Lori started Sky High Learning as her educational therapy practice. She continues to teach with NILD Canada and is currently studying for a Master's in Education with University of Calgary. In addition to supporting others, she also loves spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, and getting active.

Session IV: Cognitive Functions – Everyday Applications in the Therapy Room

Presenter: Mary-Lou Maclean

Success in academics, in careers, and in everyday functions of life, throughout our lives, require cognitive strategies. How do we bridge cognitive functions into our educational therapy sessions and then transfer these learning skills to life? In this presentation we will learn how to infuse all the cognitive functions into each NILD technique using mediation, practice, and specific language. We will also see how recent research of our NEW Gray Matter Literacy technique has enhanced cognition in the lives of our students. Build the cognitive functions skills of your students as they journey from your therapy room to the outside world!



Mary-Lou Maclean - Executive Director, NILD Canada - Mary-Lou's passion is helping struggling learners reach their full potential. For over twenty-five years, she has worked in the field of education, teaching high school, college and working as an educational therapist. After training to become an educational therapist through NILD Canada, Mary-Lou continued to work with many students for over fourteen years in the school setting as well as a private therapist. Her second passion is training educators and parents to work with students who learn differently, and she became an instructor with NILD Canada, teaching in their summer graduate program. She is now Executive Director for NILD Canada (National Institute for Learning

Development-Canada) She continues to teach, instruct and travels to conferences across Canada.

Session V: Everyday Applications of Cognitive Functions

Presenter: Lorri Wilke (see above)

This presentation will delve into Professor Reuven Feuerstein's concept of the Mediated Learning Experience (MLE) and his Theory of Structural Cognitive Modifiability (SCM). MLE emphasizes the role of mediators, such as therapists, teachers, and parents, in guiding learners to actively engage in learning and, as a result, develop and improve cognitive skills. SCM maintains that cognitive abilities can be modified through intentional intervention. The consequences of teacher and parent expectations will be explored, highlighting their significant impact on the cognitive development and outcomes of learners. Applications of cognitive functions in daily activities will offer insights into how mediators can best leverage interactions for enhanced learning and problem-solving.

