The missing link: well-developed foundational cognitive and language skills as an essential mechanism for the successful teaching of thinking

-By Louna Spies, Educational Practitioner at Edublox Boland
Introduction
= basic to advanced steps mastered first
Objectives

Barriers: methods vs skills training
Recap: foundational learning skills
Cause vs effect: foundational cognitive skills gaps
Share good news about brain ability
Method: ‘process of doing something’

Skill: the ability, coming from one's knowledge, practice, aptitude, etc., to do something well

Content of a subject vs development of foundational cognitive skills
Universal teaching principles

A child cannot do anything he hasn’t been taught

Learning is a stratified process

The Pyramid of Learning:

- Reading
  - Concentration
  - Perception
  - Memory
  - Logical Thinking

- Language
foundational learning skills

Concentration  Perception  Memory  Logical Thinking
foundational learning skills: CONCENTRATION

Selective attention
Sustained attention
Divided attention
foundational learning skills: PERCEPTION

Visual Processing

Auditory Processing
foundational learning skills: MEMORY

- Visual Memory
- Auditory Memory
- Sequential Memory
- Iconic Memory
- Short-term Memory
- Long-term Memory
- Working Memory
foundational learning skills: LOGICAL THINKING

- Recognition & Prediction
- NB Foundation skill for maths, critical thinking, etc.
Causes and effects easily confused

Lack of understanding around how the brain can change over time

Barriers we experience

Daydreaming
Slow workspeed
‘Symptoms’
Losing the place when reading
Problems with performing two tasks at once
Neuroplasticity/brain plasticity: umbrella term that describes lasting change to the brain throughout a human's life course
Neuroplasticity…continued
The science of neuroplasticity has now proved to us that the human brain has the capability to change, which implies that:

• Every child now has the chance to learn optimally. Even the skills for a talent like creativity can be developed.

• We no longer have to accept learning weaknesses.
Practical application: Edublox

- Concentration
- Perception
- Memory
- Logical Thinking

SUCCESS
Case study

Proud mother Lameez Armien has two foster sons; twins Joshua and Jeremiah aged 15 years old.

Their inspiring journey of success is one of 590 documented stories of hope and success - www.edublox.co.za
Evaluation Tools
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