

Potential workshop summaries by Linda Powers Leviton

My Socks Don't Feel Right: Teaching and Counseling Children with Tactile/Kinesthetic Learning Style

Many gifted children are blessed/challenged with tactile sensitivities that can enhance or deteriorate their enjoyment of life. Their need for sensual immersion is a two-edged sword: it can either engage or distract, if not overwhelm, them. Needless to say, success in school is affected, as well. Often they learn best in ways that can get them into trouble: touching, tasting, throwing, moving, if they tend to be understimulated; withdrawal, if they are easily overstimulated. This workshop will help you to understand their challenges, live with them, teach them, counsel them and nurture them so that they will succeed, even in seemingly hostile environments.

Teamwork: Helping Visual-Spatial Learners (VSLs) Blossom

What is this unusual, but beautiful, plant in your garden?

Visual-spatial learners (VSLs) have a different way of processing information and the world. They have a full range of strengths in a variety of areas, not the least of which is their creativity. They also often face significant challenges when thrown into a typical auditory-sequential learning environment that draws on skills they may not have readily available.

This experiential workshop identifies visual-spatial strengths and challenges, and suggests compensation strategies, when needed, that will allow VSLs to blossom in a variety of environments.

Creative Teaching Strategies to Encourage a Love of Learning

The demanding mandate of "No Child Left Behind" has left many of our most gifted, talented and creative children behind. Yet, most teachers yearn to be able to touch, move and inspire their students. This workshop provides experiences that address curriculum requirements in creative ways. Turn the time often wasted in managing behavior problems into fun, relationship-building and trust-building experiences. Participants will discuss specific challenges and problem-solve different ways of turning lemons into lemonade.

Whole Child Assessment: Seeing and Understanding Gifted Children

Gifted children need psychometric evaluation so that the adults in their lives can know their range of abilities, cognitive strengths and weaknesses, level of achievement, and discover if there are any hidden learning disabilities. Whole Child Assessment (WCA) complements psychometric evaluation by revealing the child's emotional life, sensitivities, resources and unique personal qualities. This type of in-depth observation allows parents to understand the child's internal challenges and conflicts, as well as the motivations underlying their child's behavior, in the context of their particular environment. It also provides parents with insights into handling situations more effectively. In this workshop, parents, teachers and counselors will learn more about the WCA approach to nurturing a child's unique ground of being. A problem-solving portion of the workshop invites participants to learn concrete strategies for dealing with their specific concerns.

Transforming Social Relations through the Gift of Positive Regard

Gifted children and adults often struggle to create and maintain relationships. The key to transforming relationships involves genuinely accepting self and other: the beauty, the beast and all the other facets that make us unique and human. By identifying and applying the gift of positive regard, relationships are able to change in miraculous ways.

This experiential workshop will apply the best practices of many marriage and family therapists, allowing participants to practice using the tools and activities that can help them transform their relationships in positive ways.

Creating the Life You Desire for Yourself and Your Family

Visual-spatial children and adults have an almost magical ability to visualize. The more vividly you can visualize, the more likely you are to be able to manifest your visualizations. This experiential workshop will allow you to practice using simple but strategic tools to understand yourself and others in new ways. Didactic discussion and small group exploration of the implications of these discoveries will allow you to begin the process of creating the future you desire. A final craft project will allow you to create a Treasure Map to start you on the path towards your chosen destination.

“Are We Having Fun, Yet?” Using Positive Communication Strategies in Parenting

Parents who think in pictures often excel at grasping nonverbal information, but may not be aware of how their own nonverbal communication affects others. They also have difficulty communicating their pictures in words that others understand. Nonverbal information combined with imprecise word choices can trigger unexpected and undesirable results. Subtle differences in how one communicates can significantly change a parent’s perceptions, as well as the reactions the parent gets from children. This workshop will provide practice in applying concrete positive communications that can make profound differences in parenting. It can be as simple as saying “Yes, as soon as...” instead of “No, No, No.”