

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEARCH & TEACH

Training

Friday 26 & Saturday 27
August 2011

10:00 am — 4:30 pm

Mandatory attendance at
both sessions

Waterloo, ON

Register by August 5, 2011

Register
Online!

- **Educational
Therapy 2
Training (ET2)**

Saturday 3 September 2011

1:00—3:30 pm

Waterloo, Ontario

- **Fall Seminar**

Saturday 15 October, 2011

Location: Redeemer

University College

Lancaster, Ontario

Watch for more details!!



Trix Bradley: A Visionary Leader

Interview by Jane Hoogendam

Trix appears to be a calm, casual, herbal-tea sipping, friendly kind of person upon first introduction. But upon closer contact, one sees another side of this spirited, visionary leader of NILD Canada. Trix Bradley has been involved with NILD many years as therapist, trainer, conference speaker and organizer. She also administers assessments for new students. She enjoys travelling, teaching, and if she does have some free time, a good book. Trix is always energized by new ideas and thoughts, a character trait I witnessed when taking the Level 3 training. Always more to discover and discuss.

When asked how she got involved with NILD, Trix reflects back to 19 years ago when she was frustrated while trying to set up a resource program in her school. She felt that she was not reaching the students and needed more skills. At an ACSI conference, she found out about NILD. She met Bob Hannah (one of our pioneer therapists), and asked him if she could observe him and look through the binder. "No," he replied, "I need the binder every day, and I'm still too new at this to be observed." Later, Trix did observe a session, perused the

binder, and was soon convinced that this is what she needed to do. She met individually with each board member, to convince them that this was a program the school needed, and before long she was off to Springfield, Massachusetts, funding it herself, to get her Level 1 training. Living in an old campus in the midst of a large city surrounded by low-income housing with 25 other students was an adventure in itself. After that, there was no turning back, and Trix became a strong advocate for NILD.

I questioned Trix on what she saw as the strength of the NILD method in her experience. Her response was that "it changed lives!" She shared the story of her first student. (We'll call him Jed.)

Jed (gr 6) came into the therapy station with a surly attitude; he was frustrated and did not like his new school. He slouched back in his chair as if to say "make me". Well, it was hard work. He did slowly gain independence while doing the therapy. When he was in high school, his mother shared that Jed was able to face the challenges because of the Discovery. Later, I saw him when he graduated from Chef School. He towered over me, tears in his eyes

and said that he remembered the memory techniques and that the therapy made a huge change in his life."

We ended the interview with some thoughts as to the future of NILD Canada. In 2002 we became an affiliate organization, with our own board. The challenge now is to create a face for NILD Canada in this technological era. It's exciting that with our on-line/part-residency courses we can attract new therapists from around the world. Our newly launched web-site makes NILD more accessible but we need to keep promoting and branding ourselves in new and refreshing ways- via newsletters, conferences and much more.

Yes, I must say, Trix is an inspiration to us all in so many ways! She is an encourager and a doer, and has a fantastic way of getting others on board! Her love for the child and passion for each therapist is contagious as she "carries on the torch".

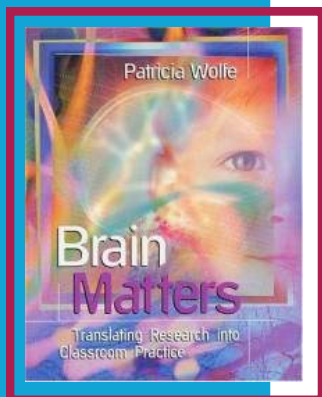
Thanks, Trix!

Trix Bradley is the National
Director of NILD Canada

Brain Matters – Translating Research into Classroom Practice

by Patricia Wolfe

A book review by
Mary-Lou Maclean



This book couples research on brain anatomy and functioning along with the practical guidelines to create new and improved teaching practices in the classroom. There are three main sections in the book. In Part I, the brain and its anatomy and physiology are discussed in great detail. The author, in Part II of the book describes how the brain functions in the areas of encoding, manipulating and storing information through the visual, auditory, and motor cortices. She bridges that information with practical guidelines using meaning, emotion and different types of rehearsal to enhance the retention and learning of information. Part III, gives many classroom applications and strategies including music, rhythm, graphic organizers, mnemonics and other ideas to promote

learning from the elementary level on through high school.

In Part II of the book, Patricia Wolfe does an excellent job defending her theory that meaning and emotion are two factors which strongly influence whether or not our brain initially “attends” to incoming information. As an educational therapist this ties in effectively with NILD training on helping our students retain information through giving meaning to what they are learning. Although much of the strategies she gives to make information meaningful to students (analogies, similes etc) I had already learned as an educator and therapist, her brain-based research and theories as to “why” these work was quite interesting and informative.

Part III of the book was overflowing with examples of how to make curriculum meaningful to students. Some of my favourites which would be effective in the

classroom as well as group therapy sessions included “real-life” problem-solving and peer teaching. Great visual and auditory strategies for the classroom or therapy session included “human-graphing” on a coordinate plane as well as writing to learn mathematics.

This book is readable for any parent or educator however, the “science” or anatomy portrayed in Part I is very extensive. Also, since it was published in 2001, the author should possibly publish a second edition or an updated version as the research in brain-based education and the neurosciences is constantly changing and evolving.

Overall, I would highly recommend this book as a great resource and reference book for teachers and therapists who desire to enhance learning skills in their students.

Did you know that at our Benefit Concert we raised \$1500!!!! A big THANK YOU to Change of Scene for their gracious and generous gift of time and talent!!

**CHECK THIS
OUT!**

Many Thanks to Our Silent Auction Donors!!

Due to the generosity of our donors and bidders we were able to raise just over \$800 for NILD from our Silent Auction.

Our thanks to:

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