

*“Using Brain Research to Promote Success!”*

## **TEACHING THE RIGHT BRAIN CHILD PART I**

by Dianne Craft, MA, CNHP



*50% of the population is Right Brain dominant, and  
50% is Left Brain dominant. We tend to marry the opposite hemisphere. (or have you noticed?)*

### **Right Brain Learner**

- \* Spontaneous
- \* Imaginative
- \* Intuitive (understands reading material, even if he doesn't know all of the words)
- \* Visual (pictures, drawn or made mentally, make retention of material much easier)
- \* Sees the "whole picture" (gets concepts more easily than rules)
- \* Color and picture help in learning
- \* Left eye dominance more common
- \* "Hands on" learner

### **Left Brain Learner**

- \* Likes structure
- \* Mathematical (easily learns math facts)
- \* Analytical (needs all the information in order to come to a conclusion)
- \* Auditory (oral repetition of math facts and spelling words greatly helps in retention of material)
- \* Sees details more easily (likes phonics rules and math formulas)
- \* Learns easily in black and white
- \* Right eye dominance slightly more common
- \* "Book and workbook" auditory learner

*Do all Right Brain children need Right Brain teaching Strategies to learn? No, but they like them. Right Brain teaching strategies require much less energy to learn. They are ESL... 'Energy Sparing Learning' methods.*

*Who NEEDS Right Brain Teaching Strategies to make learning easier? Children with:*

1. Underdeveloped memory strategies
2. Auditory Processing Problems
3. Inadequate Brain Hemispheric Integration
4. Attention Issues (ADD or ADHD-like)
5. Difficulty learning using other teaching methods

Help your child 'feel smart' by using teaching methods that require so little energy for them to remember material!

***What kind of curriculum fits this Right Brain Student? It's not the curriculum but***

# ***'how you teach it' that makes all the difference!***

## **Develop your child's Photographic Memory**

*"Visual memory is considerably superior to auditory memory."* **The Brain Book**, by Peter Russell

### **I. Right Brain Spelling**

- A. *Teach your children the method that Spelling Bee Winners use...their visual memory. Place spelling words on cards that have the 'tricky' letters colored, and with a story. Show them how to take 'pictures' of their words. These pictures stick, even when they are writing paragraphs!*
- B. *This method does not use workbooks, since the child's 'writing gate' is not his learning gate...his visual gate is his learning gate! See 3 years growth in spelling using this cost free, , fun teaching strategy.*

### **II. Right Brain Reading**

#### **A. PHONICS**

1. *You've tried the phonics games. You've done many phonics lessons. Each lesson is like a new lesson to your struggling student. Where is the memory for the sounds you're so diligently teaching? If the regular method of teaching phonics isn't working for this child, use a whole new method. Use a Right Brain method, and not an auditory method.*
2. *To make remembering sounds easier for your struggling students, use right brain techniques such as color and picture for better storage and retrieval. Teach these picture/sounds in a "unit" for easy retrieval.*
3. *To keep your children from continuing to be "word guessers" have them practice reading long words everyday with the decoding unit (ou/ow) in color in the word. This daily practice soon turns word guessers into word readers quickly.*

#### **B. READING COMPREHENSION**

1. *Children who "can't remember what they read" are not naturally converting the words they are reading into "pictures in their head". Converting written text into pictures for greater understanding and recall can be trained in daily "mini memory sessions" that help the child tremendously.*
2. *Teach your students how to make a movie while they read, and then "rewind" it to find the answers they need. This fifteen minute daily practice yields huge memory results. Also works well for kids with auditory processing glitches.*

\*HSLDA's new website: "Homeschooling the Struggling Learner", has the four learning gates, their characteristics, and more importantly, the interventions that a parent can use to help their child get past the learning block. Join HSLDA and find out the many benefits you receive to help you successfully teach your Struggling Learner at home. Dianne is currently a Learning Specialist for HSLDA. [www.hslda.org/strugglinglearner](http://www.hslda.org/strugglinglearner)

***Dianne is a Homeschool Consultant in Denver, CO. She also offers many of her Right Brain teaching products and DVD's for parents to learn from, at her website, [www.diannecraft.org](http://www.diannecraft.org)***

