

6 Tips for Brain-Based Learning (edutopia.org):

1. Create a _____ climate for learning
2. Encourage a _____ mindset
3. Emphasize _____
4. Get _____ and brains in gear
5. Start _____
6. Embrace the power of _____

How these affect learning...

1. Create a Safe Climate for Learning:

- a. “1 part of the brain that processes emotions—the amygdala—responds to perceived threats by _____ information flow to the learning centers of the brain.”
 - i. 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and a sound mind.”

2. Encourage a Growth Mind-Set:

- a. “**ASK STUDENTS TO DESCRIBE** their brain with a metaphor & they’re likely to suggest a computer, command center, or maybe a lightning-fast communications network. But they’d be better off thinking of the brain as a _____ that gets stronger with use. Researchers now understand that IQ is _____ fixed at birth. Just as we get more physically fit from exercising, we can build brainpower through the act of learning” (edutopia.org).

Some information contained in this workshop has been pulled from these resources:

edutopia.org

www.kaganonline.com/free_articles/dr_spencer_kagan/276/Kagan-Structures-are-Brain-Based

<http://jefmenguin.wordpress.com/resources/tips-for-teachers/brain-friendly-teaching-strategies/>

- i. *All brains are not equal because _____ and ability influence learning. The brain is changed by experience. The brain _____ new information to old.*
- ii. *Experts have found that (barring illness or disease) brains are designed to continue learning throughout a lifetime.*

3. **Emphasize Feedback:**

- a. “Feedback is a _____ of brain-based learning” (edutopia).
- b. “students need to know more than whether their answers were right or wrong. Understanding where & how they went wrong helps students adjust their thinking so they can improve.
- c. Positive feedback, meanwhile, _____ learner confidence. Whether it’s corrective or affirming, feedback needs to be delivered in a way that’s _____ rather than discouraging”.

4. **Get Bodies and Brains in Gear:**

- a. “_____ boosts brainpower. Cardio activity increases oxygen-rich blood flow to the brain & increases students’ ability to concentrate”
- b. According to Kagan, “Anything which increases the supply of oxygen & blood to the brain will increase alertness, healthy functioning, & learning. ...we encourage teachers to use an active structure on...average about every _____ minutes. Teachers using [active] structures regularly...do not experience low energy level dips which are inevitable if students sit quietly for prolonged periods”

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5. **Start Early!**

- a. "...children are learning long before they begin kindergarten. By reaching out to parents of preschoolers...[YOU] can help incoming students arrive at school ready—& eager—to learn."

6. **Embrace the Power of Novelty:**

- a. "The brain doesn't just detect new information—it _____ novelty."
- b. Surprise & novelty are attention-grabbers.
- c. "repetitive classroom activities, such as lectures...inhibit the brain's craving for novelty & can interfere with learning. ...If the teacher is not providing that novelty, the brain will go elsewhere" (edutopia).
 - i. "_____ is a primary source of novel stimuli" – Kagan

How these can be incorporated in your club or class...

1. **Club should be a safe, welcoming environment; so...**

- a. Intervening early regarding name-calling & other bullying behavior
- b. Learn names, names are important
- c. Foster relationships
 - i. Designate a "Door Greeter" & "Encouragers" with mailboxes for personal notes of encouragement, make follow-up calls, write letters, send cards...
 - ii. Facilitate opportunities for table mates to share favorites, what they did at school, something special about themselves...during snack time.

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- d. Teach lessons on fear and unity in Christ (2 Tim. 1:7; Jn. 5:14-15)
 - i. Sample lesson: Daniel: *Strong in the Lord; The Good Shepherd; Jesus Cares for the Disciples in a Storm* (Jesus, My Savior & Friend)
 - ii. Song: *God's Power; Faith is Just Believing; Let the Lord Have His Way; Baa Baa Little Sheep Have You Any Fear?*

2. Encourage a growth mindset in club & class by

- a. Having a set theme & main teaching throughout
 - i. Stay focused on that main teaching / theme
- b. Because the brain connects new information to old, review is necessary.
 - i. Should be quick, not a complete retelling of the entire lesson.
- c. Use Wonder Time to encourage a growth mindset – students can learn to read and understand God's Word.
 - i. Brain growth occurs when we do hard things – stretch those thinking muscles!
 - ii. To avoid discouragement, let them know that you will support them by answering any questions they may have, and set realistic goals for this reading
 - iii. Headaches often occur in youngsters when the brain is working!

3. Where is feedback emphasized?

- a. Repetition of Main Teaching Statement (Word Up!)
- b. Review Time
- c. Pair-sharing & Small group discussions
- d. Basic Q & A
- e. Memory Verse Repetition / review

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4. How do we get bodies and brains in gear?

- a. Action-oriented repetition of Main Teaching Statement and Memory Verse
- b. Review game or activity
- c. Action Songs
- d. Actions during lessons
- e. Learning centers
- f. Basic Q & A incorporating movement

5. How do we “Start Early”?

- a. Teaching Little Kids! (daycares, pre-schools...)
 - i. We need to be fully prepared to teach a real lesson!

6. How do we incorporate “novelty”?

- a. Changes in schedule – missions lesson sometimes before Bible lesson
- b. Changing activities every 10-15 minutes in the schedule – use a timer – keep it moving!
- c. Since “social interaction” is a primary source of novelty – pair-sharing, small group discussions, snack / fellowship times are very important
- d. Invite special guests to share their experiences, missionaries
- e. Host a Party Club!

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