



Revealing Minds of Struggling Learners

Craig Pohlman

Mind Matters at Southeast Psych (USA)

Abstract

Dr. Pohlman will describe a neurodevelopmental framework for conceptualizing both learning processes and individual learners. Using case stories and mock assessment items, he will illustrate key components of such neurodevelopmental constructs as:

- memory (including active working and long-term)
- attention (including input and output functions)
- language (receptive and expressive)
- higher order cognition (including applied reasoning and conceptualization)
- spatial ordering (nonverbal thinking)
- neuromotor function

He will provide session participants with clues to look for in student work (like math or writing samples) and behaviors that can reveal neurodevelopmental functioning. Such clues are accessible to educators, clinicians, parents, and students themselves. He will describe patterns and contrasts in performance that can illuminate learning strengths and weaknesses. He will also provide ideas for strategies to manage learning challenges (strategies matched to neurodevelopmental functions). He will speak to the importance of emphasizing a struggling learner's strengths and promoting self-insight. Even in a large group format, Dr. Pohlman will give session participants opportunities to interact with the material and with each other.

Objectives:

Participants in this session will be able to:

1. describe the major neurodevelopmental components underlying core academic skills
2. pose questions to reveal neurodevelopmental strengths and weaknesses
3. select profile-specific strategies for student success