



LEADING AND LEARNING
SOLUTIONS

Drive-In Academy for Training of Trainers

with author and consultant Dr. Sarah Armstrong



The Brain, Learning, and Lesson Design: A Teacher-to-Teacher Approach to Transforming Instruction

Academy Dates: June 11-14, 2012

Academy Site: University of Virginia Southwest Center, Abington, VA

A Letter to Prospective Participants

Brain research applied to classroom instruction has emerged as an essential knowledge base that all instructional leaders and teachers should have. Using what we know about the brain and learning can help transform practice; however, we need more highly knowledgeable advocates in the field who can teach and coach colleagues. This intensive four-day train-the-trainer program equips teacher leaders with materials, workshop outlines, research-based practices, and a wealth of strategies to train and guide others in their schools and/or school systems. It is intended for teachers, curriculum specialists, and administrators who are in leadership roles, serve as instructional coaches, and oversee or provide professional development. Participants should have some background knowledge of brain research applied to practice in the classroom through previous workshops or readings.

Sarah Armstrong

During this academy you will experience:

- Four days of intensive **train-the-trainer** sessions teaching you how to teach about the brain and learning.
- Interaction with colleagues on effective ways to apply this information in classrooms **across age, grade, and content levels.**
- **Steps to powerful, brain-compatible lesson design** helping you teach teachers more effective ways to engage learners in content-rich lessons—with students doing the work!
- A **training notebook** with outlines of seven “**how to train**” sessions and a CD of materials that you can tailor to the needs of your school and/or school district.
- **Expertise and confidence to train teachers in your own school or school system.**

About the Academy Trainer: **Dr. Sarah Armstrong** is a consultant on instructional improvement. She specializes in leading change with a focus on helping educators transform practice by applying research on the brain and learning. With more than 30 years experience as a reading specialist, teacher, principal, district administrator, and staff developer, she works with educators at all grade levels and content areas. Dr. Armstrong serves as an adjunct instructor for several universities working with teachers, administrators, and instructional coaches on designing powerful brain-compatible instruction. Her book *“Teaching Smarter with the Brain in Focus”* published by Scholastic was released in August 2008. Her second book, *“A Practical Guide to Tiering Instruction in the Differentiated Classroom,”* also published by Scholastic came out in October, 2010.

Workshop Location: UVA School of Continuing and Professional Studies Southwest Center, One Partnership Circle, P.O. Box 1987 Abingdon, VA 24212 Site Contact: Rebecca S. Harrison, Ed.D., Regional Outreach Manager, (276) 619-4312

Schedule: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily

Cost of workshop is \$650 per person

(includes four days of training, book, training materials, lunches, and morning refreshments)

Please fill out the form below for each registrant and return with payment or purchase order to:

Leading and Learning Solutions

270 Sawmill Creek Drive
Nellysford, VA 22958

Questions about the workshop? Contact Dr. Armstrong at

sarmstrong@cyberwind.net

TEL: 434.760.8930 FAX: 434-361-2661

Website: www.leadingandlearningsolutions.com



Please Note:

Participants will be required to read two books before the Academy: Teaching with the Brain in Focus by Sarah Armstrong which will be provided as part of the workshop registration and SPARK by John J. Rately which will need to be purchased by participants.

Name _____

Title _____ Email _____

Address _____

School _____ School District _____

Grade/Subjects/Role _____

Payment Method: Purchase Order # _____ Check Enclosed _____ yes

June 11-14, 2012—Payment: \$650.00

Leading and Learning Solutions Train the Trainers Academy Syllabus*

The Brain, Learning, and Lesson Design: A Teacher-to-Teacher Approach to Transforming Instruction

Session 1: Teaching smarter using research on the brain and learning

- Why students don't remember the content presented to them
- Sensory Memory/Working Memory/Long term memory
- Procedural Memory/Declarative (Memory for Cognitive tasks)
- Building synapses (new learning)
- The brain perspective on why activating prior knowledge is essential for learning
- Chunking class time based on age-plus/minus-two-minutes guideline
- Engaging the learners—emotional amplitude

Session 2: Steps to powerful lesson design applying the research

- Planning activities to connect to the previous lesson or to new information
- Applying correlates of achievement and other pertinent research
- Critiquing lessons

Session 3: Building thinkers through powerful lesson design

- Building a culture of inquiry in the school/classroom
- Revisiting Bloom and (new Bloom) with examples
- Designing lessons that require students to do the work of learning
- Distinguishing between Instructional strategies that encourage thinking and those that don't
- Constructing opportunities to build thinking using examples from the classroom
- Reflection on 21st Century Learning dialogue with tools and templates

Session 4: Activating visual memory systems (non-linguistic) and incorporating music and movement

- Using images, pictures, graphic organizers; interactive note-taking
- Demonstrating how hands-on experiences and use of artifacts facilitates learning
- Infusing visual arts and music into core content lesson design
- Creating lessons with movement in mind
- The social brain—movement, music, and social interaction

Session 5: Reflections on the Brain, Assessment, Literacy and Differentiation

- Identifying essential knowledge to be tested
- Setting up to differentiate for all students
- Managing instruction for diverse groups
- Designing tiered instruction and reflecting on strategies to differentiate through brain-compatible lessons.
- Providing meaningful feedback and on-going assessment of learning
- Delivery systems for training others
- Incorporating reading-to-learn and writing-to-learn strategies critical to success in the content areas

Session 6: Application of Brain Compatible Teaching using SPARK chapters

Session 7: Summary: Getting there from here

*Outline is subject to revision to incorporate updated research