



Begin with the Brain

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Martha Kaufeldt
Brain-Compatible Resources for Educators

Martha Kaufeldt began her teaching career in 1977. She taught a variety of grades at the elementary level, and language arts programs in middle and high school. She began her research of brain-compatible teaching and learning strategies while working with several school districts to develop gifted, talented, and extended-learning programs. With a Masters Degree in Human Behavior, she believes that teachers should know how the brain learns and remembers. She is passionate about teaching the way kids' brains learn naturally – through discovery, play, engagement, music, movement and novelty. Martha continues to keep up-to-date on recent neuroscience research and incorporates new knowledge into her teaching practices and workshops. She considers herself a “brain research interpreter for educators.”

In 1985, Martha designed and implemented a "Concept-in-a-Day" program to teach the concept of Long Division in a single day. Thousands of teachers have used the award-winning video and book documenting this immersion program. The success of the program introduced Martha as a powerful and dynamic workshop presenter. In 1988, Martha served as the Program Director, trainer and coach for the Bay Area Middle Schools Project. During the 1992-93 school year, Martha returned to the middle school classroom to get a "reality check." As a 7th grade Humanities Core teacher, Martha was able to work on an interdisciplinary teaching team implementing thematic curriculum. As a new challenge Martha then worked for four years as the restructuring coordinator and the lead teacher at an alternative K-6 public elementary school in Santa Cruz, California. This demonstration program emphasizes brain-compatible teaching strategies, differentiated instruction, multiage classes, authentic assessment, parent participation and conflict resolution strategies.

Martha continues to give motivational presentations and dynamic workshops that address the fundamentals of Brain-Compatible Learning and Differentiated Instruction for all grade levels. Her particular strengths address differentiated instructional strategies for diverse classrooms, including ideas for addressing gifted and talented students and second language learners. Martha's unique experiences and background have provided her with many examples and suggestions for teachers who are ready to hear about the incredible possibilities that await their students. Numbers of schools, teachers, and parent groups internationally have benefited from her brain-compatible coaching style and friendly facilitation techniques.

The second edition of Martha's best-selling book “Begin With the Brain: Orchestrating the Learner-Centered Classroom,” (2010) is published by Corwin Press. Her book “Teachers, Change Your Bait! Brain-Compatible Differentiated Instruction,” (Crown House Press, 2005) provides teachers with a huge “tackle box” of instructional strategies. Her books, audio CD's, DVD trainings and other brain-compatible classroom resources are available at her online store: Begin with the Brain. (www.beginwiththebrain.com)