

NSTA National Conference, New Orleans, LA

Featured Presentations

Thursday, March 19 9:30–10:30 AM

How Children Learn: Brain Research and Inquiry-based Science

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Room 244/245

If it's your job to develop the mind, shouldn't you know how the brain works? While there is no profession more noble than educating young minds to their fullest developmental potential, preschool to university-level faculty members seldom receive any professional preparation on "how the brain works." Today, we describe the human mind as the brain at work and we are finally acknowledging the role of the brain in the process of learning. Moreover, cognitive neuroscience is being recognized for its foundational role in effective instruction. Just as modern medicine produced more successful outcomes once it became more grounded in biological science, a scientifically supported framework that integrates brain science in instructional procedures will increasingly influence successful educational practices. It has been said that knowledge and information will double every 73 days by the year 2020. Factual information increases rapidly and is quickly outdated. However, the reliable principles of neuroscience will survive all tests of time. This presentation will highlight those principles in the contemporary context of education.

Presenter(s): Kenneth Wesson (Educational Consultant, Neuroscience, and Vice President, International and Western Divisions, Delta Education/School Specialty Science: San Jose, CA)

Bio:

Kenneth Wesson works as an educational consultant for preschool through university institutions and organizations. An expert on the neuroscience of learning and methods for creating classrooms and learning environments that are "brain-considerate," Wesson regularly addresses psychological, medical, and educational associations, as well as parenting organizations, on establishing "brain-considerate" learning environments. In addition to his seminars on learning, Wesson also speaks on the topics of brain development, diversity in learning, the neuropsychology of prejudice, curriculum development, and how children learn. He is also frequently asked to serve as an expert witness in court cases involving brain trauma and memory.

FORMAT: Featured Speaker

SUBJECT: General Science

GRADE LEVEL: General

In March 2009, the National Science Teachers Association held its annual conference in New Orleans. At that conference, Kenneth Wesson delivered one of the four featured presentations.

See page 12 of the NSTA program preview

<http://www.nsta.org/pdfs/2009NewOrleansPreview.pdf>

See March 19th in the **NSTA conference blog**

<http://blogs.nsta.org/ConferenceBlog/default.aspx?PageIndex=3>