

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message Why is Play so Important in Education and Why Don't We Allow It in the Classroom?
11 TED Talks About Science and the Brain Legislative Update Tech Tips
Assistive Technology in the IEP Upcoming Events

President's Message



It is amazing to me how quickly time goes by and that we are heading into the holiday season. On behalf of everyone from LIASEA I'd like to wish you a joyful and peaceful holiday season. Taking time to relax and be with family and friends is so important for all of us!

This fall we have been able to provide a few workshops for staff. Helene Fallon presented a workshop on student involvement in their CSE meetings. She shared some great resources with the attendees. A website "I'm Determined" had many ideas and materials that can be utilized in a variety of ways. Take a few minutes to check it out, I think you will find it interesting and valuable. We also worked with Pearson to provide training on the WISC-V for district psychologists. The morning presentation was attended by over 300 people; we continue to strive to provide meaningful and needed trainings. If you have any ideas for future workshops please email us your ideas.

The winter conference is always a highlight of our year. We are looking forward to working with Sarah Ward in January. Her topic of Executive Functioning is always important in our decision making at CSE meetings. Our hope is that we will all gather new insight and knowledge to help our every day decision making.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Debi

11 TED Talks About Science and the Brain

By: Laura Devaney On September 29, 2014 (6:00 am) In Curriculum, Featured on eSchool News, Resource, Top News

These TED Talks offer intriguing insights on science topics

Every educator needs some inspiration now and then, and these days, such inspiration can be found online in just a few seconds.

The internet brings inspiring and motivational speakers and experts to anyone with a connection and an internet-ready device.

TED Talks are some of today's most popular examples of the internet's power to expand learning opportunities to all.

Each month, we'll bring you a handful of inspiring TED Talks. Some will focus specifically on education; others will highlight innovative practices that have long-lasting impact. But all will inspire and motivate educators and students alike.

1. Could future devices read images from our brains?

As an expert on cutting-edge digital displays, Mary Lou Jepsen studies how to show our most creative ideas on screens. And as a brain surgery patient herself, she is driven to know more about the neural activity that underlies invention, creativity, thought. She meshes these two passions in a rather mind-blowing talk on two cutting-edge brain studies that might point to a new frontier in understanding how (and what) we think.

2. How your "working memory" makes sense of the world?

"Life comes at us very quickly, and what we need to do is take that amorphous flow of experience and somehow extract meaning from it." In this funny, enlightening talk, educational psychologist Peter Doolittle details the importance — and limitations — of your "working memory," that part of the brain that allows us to make sense of what's happening right now.

3. Why truly innovative science demands a leap into the unknown?

While studying for his PhD in physics, Uri Alon thought he was a failure because all his research paths led to dead ends. But, with the help of improve theater, he came to realize that there could be joy in getting lost. A call for scientists to stop thinking of research as a direct line from question to answer, but as something more creative. It's a message that will resonate, no matter what your field.

4. What is so special about the human brain?

The human brain is puzzling — it is curiously large given the size of our bodies, uses a tremendous amount of energy for its weight and has a bizarrely dense cerebral cortex. But: why? Neuroscientist Suzana Herculano-Houzel puts on her detective's cap and leads us through this mystery. By making "brain soup," she arrives at a startling conclusion.

5. A monkey that controls a robot with its thoughts. No, really.

Can we use our brains to directly control machines? Miguel Nicolelis suggests yes, showing how a clever monkey in the US learned to control a robot arm in Japan purely with its thoughts. The research has big implications for quadriplegic people — and in fact, it powered the exoskeleton that kicked off the 2014 World Cup.

6. The mysterious workings of the adolescent brain.

Why do teenagers seem so much more impulsive, so much less self-aware than grown-ups? Cognitive neuroscientist Sarah-Jayne Blakemore compares the prefrontal cortex in adolescents to that of adults, to show us how typically "teenage" behavior is caused by the growing and developing brain.

7. How to look inside the brain?

There have been remarkable advances in understanding the brain, but how do you actually study the neurons inside it? Using gorgeous imagery, neuroscientist and TED Fellow Carl Schoonover shows the tools that let us see inside our brains.

8. Open science now!

What if every scientist could share their data as easily as they tweet about their lunch? Michael Nielsen calls for scientists to embrace new tools for collaboration that will enable discoveries to happen at the speed of Twitter. (Filmed at TEDxWaterloo.)

9. Hey science teachers — make it fun

High school science teacher Tyler DeWitt was ecstatic about a lesson plan on bacteria (how cool!) — and devastated when his students hated it. The problem was the textbook: it was impossible to understand. He delivers a rousing call for science teachers to ditch the jargon and extreme precision, and instead make science sing through stories and demonstrations. (Filmed at TEDxBeacon-Street.)

10. 4 pillars of college success in science.

At age 12, Freeman Hrabowski marched with Martin Luther King. Now he's president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where he works to create an environment that helps under-represented students — specifically African-American, Latino and low-income learners — get degrees in math and science. He shares the four pillars of UMBC's approach.

11. Hands-on science with squishy circuits.

In a zippy demo at TED U, AnnMarie Thomas shows how two different kinds of homemade play dough can be used to demonstrate electrical properties — by lighting up LEDs, spinning motors, and turning little kids into circuit designers.

Tech Tips and Helpful Sites—By: John Castronova, Psy.D.

https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/4691569257292291/Nmx5Lq9o_normal.jpeg

TeachersWithApps (@TeachersApps

<<https://twitter.com/teachersapps?refsrc=email>> <<https://twitter.com/teachersapps/status/517149571483701251?refsrc=email>>

12 Apps For Smarter Teacher-Parent Communication | @scoopit <<https://twitter.com/scoopit>> sco.it/7xfIVB <<http://t.co/bf545NDw9N>>

Download the official Twitter app here <https://twitter.com/download?ref_src=MailTweet-iOS>

Why is Play so Important in Education and Why Don't We Allow It in the Classroom?

By: John Castronova, Psy.D. <http://t.co/ftAz7ogEaq>



Play in early childhood is our vehicle for exploration and creativity. It assists the infant and toddler learning to process its sensory world in small manageable chunks. Novel play stimulates the brain to create neural pathways that lay the ground work for more and more advanced processes. It fosters language, cognitive, motor and social-emotional development. Without an opportunity to engage the world in this manner, research has shown that developmental milestones can be delayed and it may adversely affect learning. Childhood Development Pioneer, Margaret Mahler (1975) wrote, "Having the space and opportunity to explore objects and play environments helps preschool children develop their imagination and master the motor, cognitive, language, and social skills that are essential for future development."

So if we can agree on the importance of the role of play in early childhood with research that supports its vital role in development, then why are we so quick to abandon this vital aspect of human development? Why are we giving up precious "down time" and substituting academic rigor at a younger and younger age? We are teaching children but are they really learning. Human development is a complicated step by step process of maturity and children develop at different rates across many domains. Some have stronger motor skills while others possess more complex language skills and others better at social skills. There is no average student and one size cannot fit them all.

Play is the great equalizer. It allows a child to find his area of comfort and prowess while offering opportunities to grow in less developed areas in a non-confrontational, friendly environment. We too quick to substitute open-ended, imaginative play with organized activities with fixed rules and winner and losers. We often mistake competition for play; it is not. There are valuable lessons to be learned from organized sports but it is no substitute for imaginative free play.

It is time that we take back our profession from those who think that children are empty reservoirs waiting to be filled with "knowledge" for they are not. They are brilliant, shining beings filled to the brim with creativity, innovation and a love for exploration. And that innate desire to learn is lost way to early in our broken educational system the misses the value in "a child's right to play" (Clements & Fiorentino 2004).

Legislative Update—By: Dr. Vicki Mingin, Ed.D.

Save the Date! OSERS Webinar on Preparing for Postsecondary Education and Employment.



Please mark your calendar! On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm, the Youth Transitions Collaborative, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services** (OSERS) will host an educational webinar entitled, **Determined to Succeed: Preparing for Postsecondary Education and Employment.**

At this webinar, OSERS funded Technical Assistance Centers, and Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers will share guidance, tools, and resources on the importance of self-advocacy and transition planning.

See flyer [here](#).

<http://www.policyinsider.org/2014/11/save-the-date-osers-webinar-on-html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Check Website for Details](#)

Members Only Annual Winter Conference

January 14—16, 2015

[Click Here for Brochure](#)

Speaker: Sara Ward

Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting

June 5, 2015

SAVE THE DATE

Summer Institute

July 9, 2015

SAVE THE DATE

