

Dr Donna Wilson



Dr Donna Wilson is a psychologist, professional developer, and author of 20 books applying mind, brain, and education science. Recent works include Introduction to BrainSMART® Teaching (Hawker Brownlow Education, 2018), Teaching Students to Drive Their Brains: Metacognitive Strategies, Activities, and Lesson Ideas (ASCD, 2016), Five Big Ideas for Effective Teaching: Connecting Mind, Brain, and Education Research to Classroom Practice (Teachers College Press, 2013), Smarter Teacher Leadership: Neuroscience and the Power of Purposeful Collaboration (Teachers College Press, 2016), Positively Smarter: Science and Strategies to Increase Happiness, Achievement, and Well-Being (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015), and Flourishing in the First Five Years: Connecting Implications from Mind, Brain, and Education Research to the Development of Young Children (Rowman & Littlefield Education, 2013).

Dr Wilson presents at educational conferences in the United States and internationally and blogs regularly on her own blog site, as well as Edutopia and Education Week. She is the head of academic affairs of BrainSMART Inc. and co-developer of the Master of Science and Educational Specialist degree programs with a major in Brain-Based Teaching and the doctoral minor degree in Brain-Based Leadership with Nova Southeastern University.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018	Session 1: Creating Practically Optimistic Classrooms
FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018	Session 2: Positive Mindsets for Struggling Students
FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018	Session 3: Making Lessons Stick
SATURDAY 19 MAY 2018	Session 1: Strategies for Engaging the Brain's Attention
SATURDAY 19 MAY 2018	Session 2: Strategies for Differentiating Reading Instruction
SATURDAY 19 MAY 2018	Session 3: Flourishing Learning in the Early and Primary Years
SUNDAY 20 MAY 2018	Session 1: Making Learning Meaningful in Your Classroom (Joint session with Donna Wilson)
SUNDAY 20 MAY 2018	Session 2: Metacognition and Cognitive Strategies: Teaching Students to Drive Their Brains - Part 1 (Joint session with Marcus Conyers)
SUNDAY 20 MAY 2018	Session 3: Metacognition and Cognitive Strategies: Teaching Students to Drive Their Brains - Part 2 (Joint session with Marcus Conyers)

FRIDAY 18 MAY

SESSION 1

Creating Practically Optimistic Classrooms

It has been said that emotions are the gateway to learning and thinking. Participants will explore the basic structure of the "emotional brain" and learn why practical optimism is of critical importance for all students today. The presenter will model key strategies for creating positive learning environments where students are encouraged to learn joyfully. Additionally, educators will learn powerful strategies for guiding students to become more optimistic learners who are motivated to take appropriate learning risks when the going sometimes gets tough.

SESSION 2

Positive Mindsets for Struggling Students

In schools today, up to 40% of students arrive in the classroom without the family and community support, prior knowledge or thinking and learning tools to be successful at school. In this workshop, we will discuss our findings about the importance of teaching students about the power of their amazing brains and provide hands-on examples of how teachers are doing so. Practical strategies for establishing high expectations, encouraging positive growth mindsets, and empowering students with the Drive Your Brain framework for increasing learning will be discussed. You will leave with strategies you can use right away.

SESSION 3

Making Lessons Stick

Have you ever found that even though you taught, taught and taught some more, many students did not retain important elements of the curriculum when it was assessment time? In this workshop, participants will discover how memory occurs in the brain and will learn about two practical frameworks for understanding how to enhance student retention. The presenter will model our popular tools such as "Memory Scape" and "Smart Pegs", and participants will leave with 10 practical strategies that can be used immediately. This toolbox of memory strategies both supports memorable engaging instruction with tools to assist teachers to guide students to become more independent learners.

SATURDAY 19 MAY

SESSION 1

Strategies for Engaging the Brain's Attention

Students today seem to have shorter attention spans for schoolwork than ever before. In this session, we will discover how the brain becomes engaged and ready to learn, as well as the role of the hippocampus in concentration and working memory. With the brain front of mind, we will discuss the importance of presentation and facilitation cycles and key strategies that can help students maintain a focus on learning. Additionally, the presenter will share strategies, such as H.E.A.R., that she has co-developed for working with students who have been diagnosed as having ADHD.

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SESSION 2

Strategies for Differentiating Reading Instruction

Each reading brain is distinctive, shaped individually by literacy experiences at home and school. In this workshop, we will learn how current research is providing powerful insights as to how to differentiate reading instruction in ways that help all students make measurable progress. Practical approaches for stimulating or reconnecting students to a love of reading will be discussed, research on how reading occurs in the brain and the use of multimodal types of strategies for designing engaging reading instruction. Most importantly, a toolbox of creative strategies will be modelled to help teachers provide male and female students with novel engaging experiences that use the brain's multiple pathways for comprehending print fluently.

SESSION 3

Flourishing Learning in the Early and Primary Years

Discover how research on neuroplasticity (findings that learning changes the structure and function of the brain) supports the view that intelligence can be enhanced. This session will explore optimising the learning potential of young children through a better understanding of brain plasticity, physical activity, and language and cognitive development in the early years. Participants will leave with strategies such as "Story Scape", original animal stories that help to teach language and key cognitive skills, and other enjoyable tools for helping young children to wire in literacy skills by using the brain's multiple pathways for learning.

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SUNDAY 20 MAY

(Joint Sessions with Marcus Conyers)

SESSION 1

Making Learning Meaningful in Your Classroom

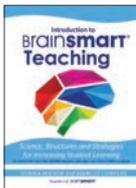
Every students' brain is as unique as a fingerprint shaped by their accumulated learning experiences. Effective teaching practice involves supporting the process of creating meaning in the minds of learners. In this session, participants will discover the science of how the brain makes meaning and guiding principles for supporting this process. Additionally, a toolbox of practical strategies for helping students make meaning will be modelled and discussed. Specific examples will be given from academic content such as maths, science, humanities and social sciences, and literacy.

SESSION 2 & 3

Metacognition and Cognitive Strategies: Teaching Students to Drive Their Brains

Discover how our "drive your brain" metaphor can be used to help students use metacognition. Learn what a large body of research indicates about the benefits of metacognition across contexts and as lifelong learners. In this session, participants will apply practical strategies for guiding students to become more metacognitive by directing powerful cognitive tools such as brain-friendly goal setting, planning, self-monitoring and finishing power across a wide variety of settings. Leave this session knowing why we call metacognition the gift that keeps giving!

RESOURCES

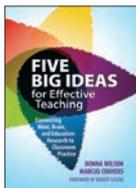


HB6623 • \$49.95

Introduction to BrainSMART Teaching: Science, Structures and Strategies for Increasing Student Learning

Marcus Conyers, Donna Wilson • 9781760566623

This book is for you if you are a busy teacher who wants to increase student learning while instilling a love of learning. Forget mind-numbing rote drills and test prep. Start using the BrainSMART approach we have shared with more than 160,000 educators and personally modelled with more than 5000 students. With BrainSMART, you will discover the 6 MASTER keys to boosting student achievement, master 12 principles for effective brain-based teaching, apply 60 classroom-tested learning strategies, boost optimism and persistence, reduce behaviour problems, increase energy and joy in teaching and learning, engage students in meaningful learning, command attention with the CRAVE formula, facilitate retention and recall of important information, and maximise transfer to success in school.

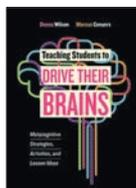


TCP0676 • \$32.95

Five Big Ideas for Effective Teaching: Connecting Mind, Brain and Education Research to Classroom Practice

Marcus Conyers, Donna Wilson • 9781760010676

This seminal text, grounded in the synergy of five big ideas for connecting mind, brain and education research to classroom practice, empowers educators with an inspiring conceptual framework for effective teaching. It is a compelling vision as well as a firm foundation for implementing curriculum standards. The practical application of the essential ideas - neuroplasticity, potential, malleable intelligence, the Body-Brain System and metacognition - is supported by a wealth of vignettes, examples, inspirational stories from teachers, strategies, reflective questions and connections between current research on how people learn and classroom practice.



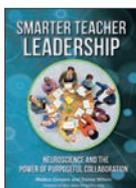
117002 • \$32.95

Teaching Students to Drive Their Brains: Metacognitive Strategies, Activities, and Lesson Ideas

Marcus Conyers, Donna Wilson •

9781760560812

Research suggests that metacognition is key to higher student achievement, but studies of classroom practice indicate that few students are taught to use metacognition and the supporting cognitive strategies that make learning easier. You can teach metacognition to your students, so why wouldn't you? Metacognition is a tool that helps students unlock their brain's amazing power and take control of their learning. With that in mind, Wilson and Conyers explain metacognition and how it also equips students to meet today's rigorous education standards. They present a unique blend of useful metaphors, learning strategies and instructional tips you can use to teach your students to be the boss of their brains.



TCP4179 • \$35.95

Smarter Teacher Leadership: Neuroscience and the Power of Purposeful Collaboration

Marcus Conyers, Donna Wilson • 9781760014179

This pioneering book shares a fresh vision for school leadership that connects current knowledge from mind, brain and adult learning research to the process of teacher development and leadership. The authors provide clear steps to enable and inspire teachers to embrace leadership and collaboration opportunities for improving instruction and student outcomes, and increasing professional satisfaction. To demonstrate the broad array of leadership pathways, a flexible "spectrum of teacher leadership" suggests the myriad ways for teachers to contribute to their school and community beyond their classrooms. This spectrum is illustrated with real-life examples of teacher leadership in practice.