Educator In-Service
Goals, Brain-Based Learning, and TPR
Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition

What are our goals for today?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What is Brain-Based education, and what does a brain-based teacher do?

- Brain-based education is the purposeful engagement of strategies based on neuroscience. It is the application of a meaningful group of principles that represent our understanding of how our brain works in the context of education. It is NOT a panacea or magic bullet to solve all of education's problems. Anyone who represents that to others is misleading them. There is not yet a "one size fits all" brain-based program, model or package for schools to follow.
- A brain-based teacher is one who understands the principles of brain-based learning and uses strategies in a purposeful way. It is an educator who understands the reasoning behind his or her teaching. It is also one who stays constantly updated through continuous professional development. (Reference: http://www.jensenlearning.com/)

How is TPR brain-based?

- Current brain research validates the use of Total Physical Response (TPR) in several ways (from *Joyful Fluency: Brain-Compatible Second Language Acquisition*, co-authored by Eric Jensen, published in 1998, page 27)
    1. A significant pathway for memory retrieval is through the physical body. This is known as procedural memory. We often recall what something is or what we wanted to do by simply getting up and moving.
    2. Areas in the brain that activate movement (cerebellum, frontal lobes, basal ganglia, motor cortex, etc.) are also well connected to the pleasure centers in the brain. Motion activates emotion; hence, moving can engage positive feelings and better retrieval.
    3. The peptide molecules which store information are distributed throughout the body. This means that almost any movement or motion can activate feelings and memories.
- TPR needs no translation, thus providing the best source of "Comprehensible Input," a necessity for language acquisition (according to noted linguist, Dr. Stephen Krashen).

CALA © 2015