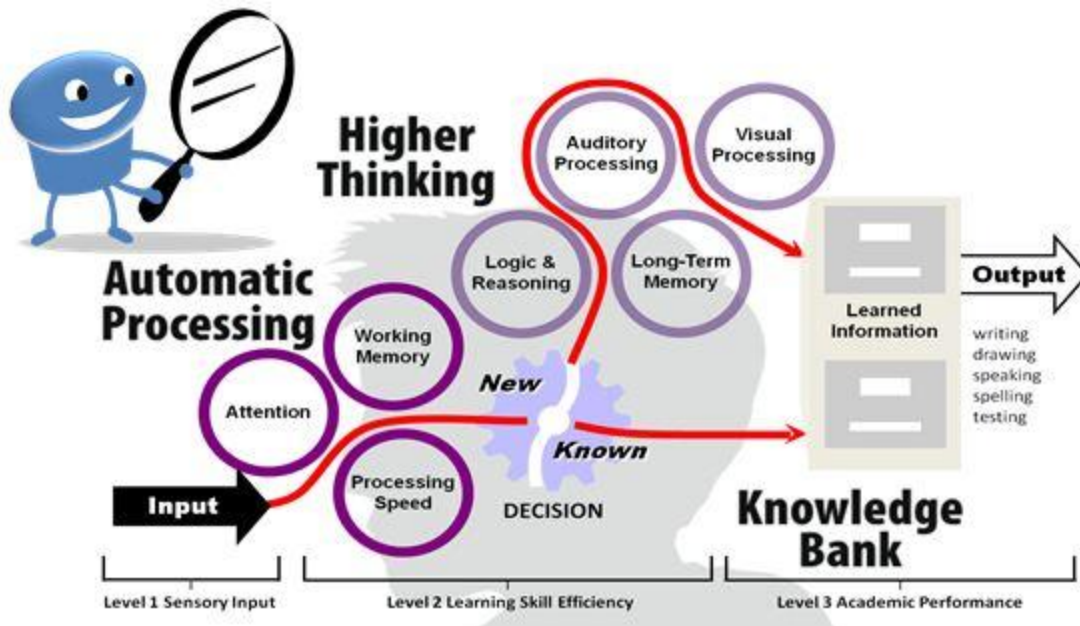


The Value of Screening Cognitive Processing Skills

Why does one student succeed academically while another fails in the same school, same class, same teacher and same curriculum? Many factors impact a student's ability to read and learn effectively. Schools have tended to focus on extrinsic factors, such as instruction, physiological issues, or the student's socioeconomic status.



In fact, intrinsic factors related to the student's ability to process information may be far more a factor than we realize.

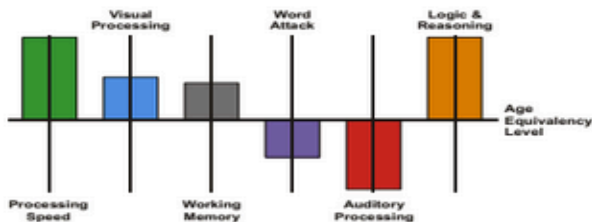
Of the major systems involved in learning, cognitive skills impact how the brain processes information: processing speed, visual processing, auditory processing, memory, attention, logic and reasoning. These skills enable a person to process sensory inputs and then perform tasks such as reading, learning, paying attention, planning, remembering, understanding, and solving problems.

In the past, these skills were thought to be fixed once a child reached a certain age. A wealth of new science and research has proved that the mature mind can still make new neural connections and improve cognitive skills through the proper training. Further, by having students in 2nd Grade screened for cognitive skills gaps, the specific results can be used by teachers and parents to address the gaps and bring their students up to reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade.

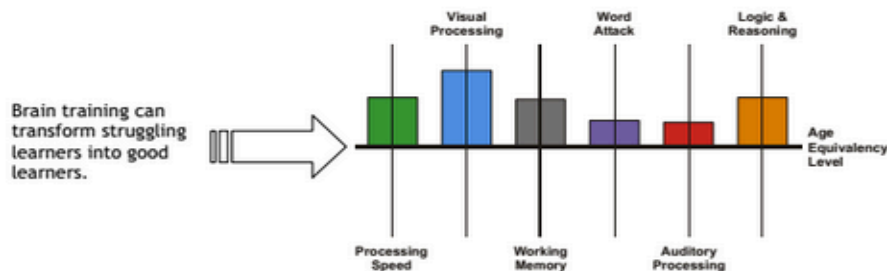
A Louisiana's elementary school's 60 lowest performing students who had failed the state test the previous year were screened and then received brain skills training to address their cognitive processing weaknesses. Fifty-seven of the students passed the state test post training.

Example cognitive skill screening results charts

Example 1: A Bright Student but Poor Reader and Speller



Example 3: A Good Learner



Example 2: A Slow Learner



If a student struggles with any aspect of learning, cognitive skill screening can identify causes. The Gibson Test is a nationally validated/normed online tool that measures cognitive skills functioning. The 45-minute screening includes nine different mental tasks organized like puzzles and games on a computer. By scoring the individual processing skills, the Gibson Test helps identify weak areas that may be contributing to learning struggles. Even high-performing students may be compensating and working harder than necessary because of one or more weak processing skills.

Higher scores generally mean that processing information is faster, easier, and more effective. Lower scores mean that processing information is relatively harder, slower, and less effective. Knowing if an individual has any low processing scores helps us understand why learning may be harder for that person and provides better guidance towards a solution. In most cases, processing skills can be strengthened through proper training to improve learning effectiveness and help individuals achieve their full potential.

To learn more about cognitive skills screening, contact Gary Smith, (719) 357-8030 or gsmith.trsm@gmail.com.