

Using the Building Blocks of Brain Development to Understand and Assess Learning Disabilities

Module 1

- Overall purpose
 - All learning disabilities are brain based issues caused by a neurological deficit(s)
 - Assessment framework to ensure comprehensive evaluation
- Module 1.2
 - Brain is responsible for all functions
 - Triad of human function
 - Thoughts create feelings, feelings create behavior, behavior reinforces thoughts
 - All brain parts are interdependent on each other
 - Assessing brain function allows understanding of the 'why'
- Module 1.3 Comprehensive Model for SLD Evaluations
 - 3 Factor Model
 - Formal Methods
 - Typically, norm referenced assessments
 - Standardized scores, administration
 - Indicators what is "normal" performance
 - Informal Methods
 - Critical qualitative information (especially behavioral data)
 - Not typically restricted, employed by most school staff
 - Should confirm and support formal data
 - Inexpensive
 - Impacted by bias
 - Examples include record review, family/developmental history, informal observations, informal interviews, work samples
 - Semi-Formal Methods
 - Bridge between informal and formal
 - Qualitative and quantitative
 - Multiple perspectives, multiple voices
 - Inexpensive
 - Moderates bias

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Module 1: Introduction to BBBD And SLD

- Examples include rating scales, symptom checklists, structured/standardized interviews/observations, can be self-created
- Module 1.4
 - Considerations
 - Does not replace RTI
 - RTI data is incorporated within BBBD
 - Model does not use IQ discrepancy model, not synonymous with IQ testing
 - Targeted assessments, not full batteries
 - Assess to confirm, better understand, and to intervene