IDENTIFYING BLOCKED LEARNING GATES

 We know that God has gifted every one of us with a unique personality, interests, and treasures to be discovered. However, when an educator realizes that something in a child doesn’t seem quite right in the way he/she learns, there are several questions that she must first ask herself. Is the child a boy or a girl? Does this child have a desire to learn? How easy was the alphabet to learn? And was it learned, but he/she still can’t read? How easily did the other children in the family learn? Is this child still making reversal after age seven? Answers to these questions will help form a clearer picture of what is going on and the solutions to perform.

 If the answers give some concern, then it is time to consider the possibility that the Corpus Colosseum is acting more like a wall than a bridge. The information taken into the left, learning side with short term memory of the brain is not arriving permanently into the right, automatic long term memory hemisphere. To solve that problem, this child needs fats, fats, and more fats to grease that path. These fats come from DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) found in cod liver oil and the mother’s breast milk. If that is lacking, this sweet child is simply using too much energy to learn and will wear out before he/she can obtain skills that adhere to the automatic side of the brain. In other words he/she will be learning/relearning many pieces of information over and over again. How exhausting because he/she is working significantly harder than a fellow classmate.

 The Learning Gates consist of 4 areas. Some children may have only one gate impassable, while others have all of them blocked. First, the Visual Gate, will affect eye tracking and, thus, comprehension. Some clues would include reading reversals (like on/no, off/of). Next, the Writing Gate, enables the hand to translate what’s in the head and write it onto paper. If that gate is not automatic, then copy work will be very laborious. The third gate is Auditory Processing. This one is different in that it has 10 different channels that can be assessed and corrected. Finally, the Focus/Attention gate means that too much energy is being spent on trying to engage in schoolwork. The more gates that are compromised, the more of a struggling learner the child is.

 In addition to evaluating learning gates, the level of the processing problems needs to also be considered. If a child has a *glitch*, then he/she has to work harder to engage, but will not be testing behind. A *dysfunction* will require a child to work harder yet and put him/her behind about a year. Parents are usually getting nervous by this time. With *dyslexia* and *dysgraphia* (the number one misdiagnosed learning glitch and describes a child behind in writing), a child will be working even harder, but will still be about 2 years behind. Regular teaching methods will simply not work for this child.

 While there are many ways to treat these energy-strained kids, the most family friendly and cost effective is Dianne Craft’s method of using the 3-pronged approach. This technique involves the following: *Brain Integration Therapy*, which includes mid-line exercises and once-a-week brain re-patterning; *Right Brain teaching strategies* compensate for success while re-training; and *Nutritional Intervention,* scientifically proven to improve brain health when allergies are eliminated. When all three of these are used together, improvements can realized very quickly.

 In God’s great wisdom to draw us closer to Him, His wonderful knitting needles has created each of us with a need for Him. Our weaknesses are discovered by His grace and can be overcome with grace, as well. Struggling to learn is just one of the difficulties a person can have. By looking for the clues, planning a remedy, and then watching as the body, so -intricately connected-heals, our faith will grow. I am so thankful for Dianne’s dissatisfaction in the accepted protocol, her tenacity in searching for answers, and her love for the Lord and the children that compelled her to share it with the rest of us.