



Developing Brains
Learning and Performance Consultant

Rural and Remote Educational Support Services

All children, regardless of where they live, deserve equal access to quality education and support services. When required to teach their own children, parents deserve support in what many find a daunting task added to their already busy lifestyles. Recognizing this need in rural and remote communities, Developing Brains' services help to build sustainable, liveable, and prosperous futures.

Introducing Developing Brains...

Julia Broad has experience teaching in mainstream and special education settings and now, living on a remote cattle property, juggles teaching her son Mac, caring for two younger children, station life, and working as a **Learning and Career Coach** with Developing Brains, her consultancy business specialising in rural and remote educational support services.

Born, bred and educated (primary) on a cattle property in the north Queensland bush has led to Julia's passion for nature and while at boarding school as a teenager she discovered sport and fitness training which lead her to complete a degree in Human Movement Science. She later studied education to teach Health, Personal Development, and Physical Education. As a teacher she adapted the philosophy of Monty Roberts 'The Horse Whisperer' who trains horses by mirroring their instincts and behaviours in his body language and thus communicating with them. It is a low stress, effective method for producing and improving good natured horses. The Developing Brains strategies do just that in the classroom by meeting the students in their world and at their level to build their personal skills to make them **confident individuals and learners**. Through this life experience and ongoing study and research Julia Broad provides a unique package of professional and personal development able to support and extend **educators, students, and parents** working and learning through distance education.

Julia has combined her awareness of the Distance Education system with her expertise in the field of learning how to learn to create workshops tailored specifically for home tutors, rural and remote families. Her mission is to provide the most pertinent information about learning to home tutors, teachers, students, and parents in remote areas.

Developing Brains offers the following educational services in face to face sessions and the Anatomy of the Brain course is eight weeks of facilitated online learning and discussion using Blackboard through Education Queensland's Learning Place.

1. Professional learning workshops and seminars for teachers and home tutors
2. Student learning workshops
3. Parenting seminars
4. On-line professional development programs tailored for teachers and home tutors

Developing Brains sessions meet the requirements for the following Education Queensland's Professional Standards for Teachers:

- Structure flexible and innovative learning experiences for individuals and groups
- Construct intellectually challenging learning experiences
- Construct relevant learning experiences that connect with the world beyond school
- Construct inclusive and participatory learning experiences
- Support the social development and participation of young people
- Create safe and supportive learning environments
- Contribute to professional teams
- Commit to professional practice

Select from the following workshop titles and plan your approach to your professional and personal development. Workshops available through Developing Brains:

1: Home Tutoring with the Brain in Mind: how to use brain compatible teaching strategies to optimise time and results in the home based classroom.

2: Emotionally Smart Boarding School Preparation: learn emotional control and self development skills to be prepared for the myriad of changes, isolation, and social interaction

3: Learning and Career Profiling Tool: introduction and support with electronic tool which assesses students' strengths and areas needing attention and highlights career specific traits for each individual.

4: The Amazing Brain Workshop: engaging students in learning about their brains

5: Anatomy of the Brain: 8 week online course covering how you can help your students to understand how they learn and therefore how they can become better learners.

Using brain research to inform classroom practice.

Much of the research into how the human brain learns can be used to inform and shape strategies used in classrooms. We know that the human brain is highly 'plastic' which means that all brains can grow neurons and thus learn. We have learnt that the brain needs certain biological conditions met in order to work at optimal levels - nutrition, sleep, exercise, emotional engagement, and safety from threat are key elements of conditions for learning.

The classroom of the future must reflect these conditions and apply what actually benefits students in classrooms, as well as what needs to change in order to improve learning and make the schooling experience more enjoyable and satisfying for all. Strategies claiming to be brain-compatible must satisfy the criteria of contributing to the likelihood of engagement in learning from students. Sessions with Developing Brains inspire teachers and home tutors and excite young people and provide frameworks for parents to see new breathtaking possibilities.

Benefits of Professional Development with Developing Brains.

Developing Brains offers unique and practically-oriented learning services. We believe that our client's best understand the complexities and necessities of their own sites so we provide you with the opportunity to design a program to suit your needs and:

- Builds quality professional learning, customised for teachers or home tutors
- Supports home tutors and infuses them with confidence to flourish in the role
- Inspires your teachers and home tutors with new, exciting and highly relevant ideas and strategies
- Examines the latest, research about how humans learn
- Explores learning through amazing technology and stunning 3-D graphics
- Engages young people in learning by informing students about the learning process
- Develops sustainable programs that address the wellbeing of school communities
- Builds classroom applications to reach every learner
- Understands how to utilise Learning Styles across your site
- Constructs ways to build parent and community support for sustainable growth at your site

Workshop 1: Home Tutoring with the Brain in Mind:

Home tutoring presents a unique challenge in fostering and building a productive teacher/student relationship usually between mother and child and sometimes between father and child or an employed governess usually with little formal teaching training. The complexities of combining and trying to delineate the roles of parent with teacher, coupled with the emotional attachment a parent has with their child's education creates a most challenging learning and teaching environment. The added complexity of using the home, office, or spare room as a classroom can generate further hurdles.

This workshop combines the practicalities of *Parenting with the Brain in Mind* with the theories and strategies of *Learning with the Brain in Mind: An introduction to brain-compatible learning* and *First Aid for Behaviour Issues - how to create classrooms that are uplifting for the spirit* to guide home tutors in formulating a plan to allow them and their students to thrive, not just survive.



Workshop 2: Be Emotionally Smart for Boarding School:

A session for students and their parents who are approaching and preparing for boarding school.

Are you anxious about preparing your student for boarding school or life away from home? Then learn The Emotional Rooms model to help your child be emotionally smart and ready to tackle the hurdles of settling into life away from home.

The 'Emotional Rooms' model provides a framework to assist home tutors, parents and their students in establishing common routines for managing and understanding your emotions and actions of others. The Model also provides striking frameworks to engage students in creative thinking.



- **Content:**
- Introduction to the Emotional Rooms Model: Related to real life situations and experiences
- Attitudes and concepts: how our thoughts and emotions influence our thinking and behaviour
- The Concept Model: using questions to build optimism and healthy thought patterns
- Red Room: strategies for management and prevention of crisis situations
- Mind Your Brain Program: inspiring ways to teach students about emotions and behaviour
- Introducing the 'Chatz': teaching students how to manage their own self-talk
- Developing thinking skills: an explicit approach to teaching students about thinking skills
- The Strengths, Challenges and Growth Meter: a tool for identifying problems and planning growth

Workshop 3: Learning and Career Profiling Tool:

The Learning and Career Profiling System helps students to make informed decisions about their education, training and career options. The on-line environment enables students to work with their teachers, family and other experts to develop a personal learning plan for successful academic and career pathways. The on-line Learning and Career Profiling Tool assist students from the age of 11 to build a meaningful **learning pathway plan** which enables that person to identify their learning preferences and strengths, providing guidance to future careers.

The Learning and Career Profile composes these profiles following answering sets of questions:

- Learning profile – 25 questions to identify learning preferences and plot your individual profile on a graph
- Personal profile – adds personal attributes to each section of the graph.
- Strategy profile – lists ways to interest and engage each individual in learning
- Emotions profile – aids identification of emotions related to learning
- Career profile – overlays the individual's profile graph with characteristics suiting over 300 possible careers to find a best fit.

Features of the Learning and Career Profiling Tool

- create real-time plots of the student's learning and career profiles
- build a comprehensive view of the students' learning strategies
- re-engage students through emotional connection to education
- plan teaching and learning methodologies to reach every student
- import and export information on selected groups of students and teachers
- generate immediate access to the student's development on-line
- construct data collection and management systems to create individual and group reports
- compare student learning profiles with career profiles to bring purpose to learning
- review student strengths and areas for development
- adjust plans as needed to set and reach new goals

The Learning and Career Profiling Tool provides you with:

1. high quality PowerPoints that enable you to facilitate discussions and activities about learning
2. interactive learning tasks that focus on learning strategies, preferences and areas for development
3. an on-line environment for students to assess and record their personal learning profile
4. capacity for you to import and export student generated data about learning and careers
5. capacity for you to compare student and teacher profiles to better match the needs of both groups
6. a conceptual framework backed by student-generated data to discuss matters about learning and careers with students and their families
7. an opportunity to use student-generated data to guide students towards independent learning habits
8. a framework for students to build and report their personal learning and career profiles
9. instant on-line access for students to electronically review and adjust their learning and career plans
10. unique opportunities to profile entire school teaching staffs with data-based discussions about pedagogy, teacher effectiveness, differentiation strategies, and planning for productive student transitions from school to further education and employment

Benefits of using the Learning and Career Profile

Students	Parents	Teachers / Home Tutors
<p>The Learning and Career Profiling Tool helps students make informed decisions about their education, training and career options. The Tool provides an on-line environment for schools to use with teachers and families to develop a personal learning plan for successful academic and career pathways.</p>	<p>The Learning and Career Profiling Tool supports families to shape plans in order for children to achieve success in school, further education and ultimately, employment. The main reason for identifying a learning and career profile is to provide the family unit with the most appropriate methods of learning to maximise motivation and achievement for each child. Parents with a comprehensive learning and career profile of each member of the family can...</p>	<p>Are you the type of teacher who wants to engage more students in learning what you want to teach? Do you believe that students are capable of taking more responsibility for their academic performance and career pathways? Are you more interested in an education for the whole child as opposed to narrow systemic tests? Well, if you answered 'yes' to these questions, this Tool was designed with you in mind.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify your personal and unique learning profile 2. connect with learning opportunities by managing your emotions 3. choose appropriate learning strategies 4. build skills as an independent, confident learner 5. review your strengths and areas for development 6. research options and preferences for employment 7. identify transition goals from school to further education and employment 8. articulate your capabilities and plans 9. review and adjust your plans 10. document a meaningful personal learning plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understand why a child clashes with other family members; why they doesn't like particular family tasks or interests; why they seems to be very "close" or in tune with one other family member; or why they think about a particular issue in a different way to others 2. understand why a child is doing well or poorly with particular subjects and/or teachers at school 3. understand why different family members often have different approaches for doing things, reading books and newspapers, learning how to operate a new gadget, and so on 4. help a child strengthen or develop areas of weakness 5. suggest possible courses and careers that suit the interests of a particular family member 6. support a child moving from one profile to another profile in order to accomplish a career aspiration 7. suggest out of school activities that suit the learning profile of individual family members 8. use evidence to demonstrate factors that contribute to formation of personal identity 9. discuss factors that contribute to learning and employment success 10. communicate with their children within a framework of shared language 	<p>Each student's learning is shaped by a variety of influences. We call these; Weighted Elements. They include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attitude • teacher effectiveness • competing responsibilities • motivation • feedback and assessment • sleep and nutritional habits • confidence • learning disorders • poverty • ability • time allocations • peer influences • developmental readiness • employment interests • family aspirations • language barriers • learning styles • personal health <p>We believe that students have the greatest sphere of influence over the Weighted Elements and that teachers can be the conduit whereby students accept greater responsibility, within a framework of support, for realising their creative potential and personal responsibilities.</p> <p>The Learning and Career Profiling Tool creates a framework for you and the students you teach to engage in productive, insightful and sophisticated discussions and activities about success in school, as well as training and transitions to productive employment.</p>

Workshop 4: Your Amazing Brain Workshop

The 'Amazing Brain Workshop' assists students to better understand the complex process of learning, and in particular, to increase their sense of control over their learning performance. Over 120,000 students ranging in age from 4 year-olds to 18 year-olds have participated in these amazing workshops. Each student gets to dissect a real brain (from a sheep!), build models, engage in higher order thinking activities and play games that demonstrate key brain processes. This is one of the most memorable days any student will ever have at school!

Content:

- How the brain learns: we dissect real brains to find out!
- Key elements of brain care: correct nutrition, adequate sleep and good hydration
- Memory and information processing: using the brain in productive ways
- 30 ways to become a better learner: what to do and how to do it
- Learning styles: identifying individual strengths and weaknesses
- The links between emotion, behaviour and attitude: managing conflict in healthy ways
- Examining the Red Room and ways to keep out of it: building resilience and wellbeing



Workshop 5: Anatomy of the Brain:

The 'Anatomy of the Brain' online course is an eight week course with an approximate time commitment of four hours per week. There are readings and online activities to engage in, as well as suggested tasks to do with your students, for those of you working in the classroom setting.

A study guide that outlines the tasks and focus activities. The advantage of doing professional development online is that you can self pace and fit your learning around work and family commitments each week. At the conclusion of the course participants should be able to:

- describe ways that scientists examine brains
- use this information to inform teaching practice
- use language about processes involved in thinking, emotions and learning
- examine a brain by direct experience/dissection
- locate ten parts of a brain and describe their function
- understand the frailty of this major organ
- reinforce the terminology of learning with students
- describe the microscopic cells that make up the brain's structure
- understand how the brain grows and changes throughout our lives
- describe brain chemicals and their purposes
- explain how memories are formed
- outline different types of memory
- understand the role of the hippocampus in new learning

"I have enjoyed it immensely and have gained a lot of knowledge which dovetails beautifully with what I already knew, explained why strategies I already used worked, suggested new strategies to me and helped me refine some old ones and supports our whole-school strategies from the Dimensions of Learning package. It has not only helped me but I will be able to share this knowledge with my colleagues and give them a new perspective on the value of the Dimensions of Learning strategies we are using!" **Anatomy of the Brain participant 2009**

Contact Details

Julia Broad

Bach Human Movement Science. Grad Dip Ed. Phys Ed. Personal Development and Health.
Certified Brain Trainer with Focus Education, Adelaide.

Phone: 47704425 Fax: 47704484

Mobile: 0407 743 594

Postal: Low Holm Station Pentland Q 4816

Email: julia.broad@developingbrains.com.au

An extensive catalogue of supporting resources is available through the attached order form from Mindwebs. www.mindwebs.com.au

Developing Brains' programs are outlined in this booklet and at www.developingbrains.com.au

Alternatively, sessions can be planned specifically for you.