

Active Axons EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Professional Services Information



“Excite, Engage and Empower for Learning
and for Life”

www.activeaxonseducation.com.au

Regardless of our heredity, socioeconomic status, culture or age, each of us has a right to know what we are capable of achieving. We also have a responsibility to learn how to make informed choices for ourselves and for better futures for our families and communities.

Quality learning for living can be provided to all. Current multidisciplinary research into how the brain learns and processes information is informing debate on creating learning environments and working conditions that can engage and empower all individuals in our diverse population. Making this research accessible to educators, health workers, professional and amateur sportspeople, students, families and business leaders is the aim of Active Axons Education and Training. The great message is that the success of our learning experiences is something over which we have a great deal of control.

We can, and do, build our own brains. We can all learn to be the site managers of this most important, life-long construction process.

We are privileged to be part of the evolving nature of “best practice”. Active Axons programs and services have been developed to complement the work of other specialists in these fields and are constantly evolving. Active Axons Education and Training is a NSW Institute of Teachers endorsed provider of PD www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au

What Services Does Active Axons Offer?

- Seminars and Conference Presentations in the fields of Education, Science and Health Promotion
- Professional Learning Services for Educators from Preschool to Tertiary level
- Pastoral Care programs and training
- Train-the-trainer programs for educators
- Learning Programs for Students of all ages
- Highly interactive Workshops to engage Students, Parents and Community Groups
- Learning and Career Profiling System and implementation and training
- Consultancy services in applying key principles to learning and pastoral care programs on an ongoing basis

“EXCITE, ENGAGE AND EMPOWER” with our Targeted Programs

The “WENZIT Working” Series

The “WENZIT Working” programs target discussions about the importance of intrinsic motivation and metacognition for confidence, healthy self-esteem and lifelong learning. Realising the importance of brain health sets the platform for informed choice. Understanding the basis for emotion and behaviour builds confidence and empathy. Learning how to learn empowers individuals. “WENZIT” is a way to remember some general principles - Water, Exercise, Nutrition, Zeds, Intrinsic Motivation and Thinking about Thinking.

The “Science for Their Futures” Programs

The Science programs target discussions on the need for general scientific literacy in the community and the understanding that science is simply one way to explain the world around us. There is a heavy emphasis on the research regarding misconceptions and threshold concepts in general science and in biology, and on “big picture” delivery of the curriculum based on the principles of neuroeducation. The aim is to investigate the delivery of science education that prepares students for life and makes science available to the community.

Workshop Titles for Educators, Students, Parents, and Community Groups

More information about these titles can be found on the pages following, or you can visit our website for more details and background information www.activeaxonseducation.com.au

“Empowering Educators” - Professional Development Programs or Staff Seminars

1. WENZIT Working- Leading the Learning Brain
2. WENZIT Working –Concepts and Behavioural Brains
3. WENZIT Working – Stress, Assessment and Learning
4. PRIMARY SCIENCE – Engaging the National Curriculum
5. BIOLOGY Teaching for Their Futures

“Empowering Students” - Age Appropriate Interactive Workshops for Students

6. Meet Your Brain -Meet Your Future
7. WENZIT Working – Brain Care
8. WENZIT Working– Study Skills for Life
9. WENZIT Working Against You– Life Choices

“Empowering Parents” - Parent Information Evenings or Orientation Programs

10. WENZIT Working for Families

“Empowering Communities” - Seminars for Interest Groups and Health Professionals

11. WENZIT Working - Health Choices
12. WENZIT Working in Sport
13. Leading With the Brain Forward

ABN: 31 877 918 945

We would be delighted to discuss individualised programs and conference speaking topics with you. If you would like further information or just would like to have a chat about your options, please contact the director of Active Axons, Kery O'Neill BVSc Dip Ed at kery@activeaxonseducation.com.au

Website : www.activeaxonseducation.com.au

Email : info@activeaxonseducation.com.au

Phone : 0449 897 446

Mailing Address : 1 Princes Road Leura, NSW 2780, Australia

For our terms and conditions or for information about our pricing schedule, please contact us at info@activeaxonseducation.com.au



Kery O'Neill BVSc DipEd , Director

Bachelor of Veterinary Science (University of Sydney, Australia) 1985
Graduate Diploma in Education (University of Technology Sydney, Australia) 1996
Certification in Brain Based Training (Focus Education Australia) 2010

With a background that incorporates research science, veterinary surgery, education and management, Kery is well practised in lifelong learning. With nearly 20 years' experience teaching students of all ages, Kery has set the goals of Active Axons to excite, engage and empower for learning and for life. She has both "talked the talk" and "walked the walk" of neuroeducation in her instructional and management practice.

Background

- 1997 – 2010 General classroom teacher of Senior Biology, Science, Ad Astra Primary Science, Design and Technology
- 2006 – 2010 Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
- 1993 – 1995 Teacher (PT) TAFE, course development and delivery in Veterinary Nursing and Biological Techniques
- 1995 – 1996 Liaison, Human Pathology, management and communication between specimen reception and cytology
- 1991 – 1994 Associate Lecturer, Veterinary Anatomy, University of Sydney
- 1987 – 1990 Community Environmental Education, (PT voluntary) Bega, NSW
- 1994 – 1995, 1986 – 1991 Private Veterinary Practice, small and large animal medicine and surgery

PROGRAM OUTLINES

Active Axons is also more than happy to work with participating sites in developing more individualised programs and can incorporate different workshops to meet your areas of interest or need.

Empowering Educators (3 hours – 3 days) **Professional Development Programs or Staff Meeting Seminars**

While there is some debate about how to apply the findings of neuroscience to educational outcomes, it is important to recognise the need for educators to be familiar with the language of neuroscience. It is also important that we have the tools to evaluate the many recommendations that are coming out of current research and the flood of “brain building” computer programs coming onto the market.

“The ‘Active Axons’ workshop was just the most inspirational session I have ever attended. My only complaint is that this session did not go for long enough!” IPSHA Deputy’s Conference, September 2010

Participants are armed with resources and strategies to excite, engage and empower students. Interactive games and challenges help to model these strategies and participants are encouraged to engage in debate about the relevance of a range of research findings for their own classroom practice.

While each workshop has a different focus, all aim to help participants to:

- Investigate strategies to optimise student engagement based on evidence of the way the brain learns
- Think about the role of education in preparing individuals for life.
- Increase familiarity with the language of neuroeducation in a very fun and accessible way,
- Enjoy animated tours of the brain in order to apply modern models of learning
- Become familiar with the amazing potential that is neuroplasticity
- Investigate the effects of stress, boredom, prior concepts and motivation on student success
- Examine ways to promote achievement in a diverse range of students
- Consider the benefits and limitations of Individual Learning Profiles
- Increase confidence in teaching students how to learn in order to improve educational outcome
- Experience inspiring ways to teach students about brain care and the critical roles of hydration, exercise, nutrition, sleep, intrinsic motivation and thinking about thinking (WENZIT)

1. WENZIT Working – Leading the Learning Brain ***motivating student engagement in learning***

A most inspiring workshop that gives a general introduction to current research in, and application of, neuroeducation. Participants engaged in a range of strategies to promote student engagement and individual responsibility for learning. Realising the importance of brain health sets the platform for informed choice in our students. Understanding the basis for emotion and behaviour builds confidence and empathy. Learning how to learn empowers individuals.

2. WENZIT Working – Emotion and the Behavioural Brain ***managing behaviour by engaging learning and promoting positive emotions.***

Participants investigate a variety of ways to maintain classrooms with a climate of respect and rapport. Brain compatible strategies and models, such as the “Concept Model” and the “Emotional Rooms” provide a conceptual framework to assist in understanding the impact of emotions on learning. Understanding the basis for emotion and behaviour builds confidence and empathy. The models highlight the importance of empowering students to take individual responsibility for their learning and behaviour.

3. WENZIT Working – Stress, Assessment and Learning *promoting successful lifelong learning without all the stress*

This workshop targets the principle of teaching students how to learn and how to manage stress. The Concept Model and Information Processing Model are used to provide a conceptual framework, and provide a common language to help students understand the acquisition and retention of knowledge. Participants investigate an assessment approach that works with, rather than against, the way the brain is biologically geared for feedback in order to get the best result for all students. Participants will be engaged in discussion about “authentic assessment” and will discuss and experience a range of strategies.

4. Science for Their Futures - BIOLOGY Teaching for Their Futures

It is a great privilege to teach Biology to our students! Science is a discipline that aims to explain the world around us, so prior experience, concepts and misconceptions are especially important to students in developing an open mind to scientific investigation and the views of others. Participants in this workshop are challenged about the way the curriculum is approached. Strategies to approach each of the core units in terms of big picture learning are modelled in this interactive workshop. Research is used to emphasise the need to promote intrinsic motivation in students. Employing strategies to help students cross threshold concepts is addressed as is the importance of improving scientific literacy.

5. Science for Their Futures - PRIMARY Science – Engaging the National Curriculum

The current research in Neuroeducation and the work being done targeting children’s misconceptions in Science is the basis of the activities and the resources in this workshop. This course aims to maintain the confidence of primary trained teachers in teaching the science curriculum. Participants are given a general approach to the teaching of science content as well as specific strategies and activities to engage them and their students in the wonderful world of scientific exploration. Specific attention is given to the development of teaching programs to challenge commonly held misconceptions and to meet the curriculum outcomes.

[NSW INSTITUTE OF TEACHERS](#)



Active Axons Education and Training is a

**NSW Institute of Teachers’ endorsed provider of Institute
Registered professional development for the maintenance of
accreditation at Professional Competence.**

Scope of Endorsement – Professional Teaching Standards 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.2.3; 1.2.4; 2.2.1; 2.2.3; 2.2.4; 3.2.1; 3.2.2; 3.2.4; 4.2.4 and 5.2.3 for the course ‘Biology Teaching for their Future’, and, 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.2.4; 3.2.4; 5.2.3; 6.2.1 and 6.2.7 for the course ‘Leading the Learning Brain: Motivating Student Engagement’.

Age appropriate and highly interactive workshops to excite students

Workshops, catering for up to 100 participants, can be tailored to suit students from ages 4 – 18 years and are also available for tertiary level programs. Students are introduced to the amazing mechanism of the brain, its role in learning and the ways they can help or hinder its development. Students get to dissect a brain, make models and engage in interactive games.

“Hi Kery, I wanted to say thanks for all you did for the Year 10 Senior Preparation Program. I have spoken to many different students and the feedback has been great. I just wanted you to know that I appreciate the time and effort you have put into this. I know it is your passion, but you have enabled our students to develop their self-understanding and their approach to their studies and life. Thanks again.” Head of Curriculum, Blue Mountains Grammar School, November 2010

While each workshop has a different focus, all aim to empower students to increase both their sense of control and their sense of individual responsibility, over learning and life choices.

The workshops address a combination of the following:

- Brain anatomy and nerve structure and function for beginners
- The concept of learning as “building brains” and an examination of the most effective strategies for managing this “construction”
- The importance of Individual differences for learning and life
- The biology and chemistry of “memory”
- The importance of Learning HOW to Learn
- The Information Processing Model as a way to explain strategies for learning
- The importance of hydration, exercise and correct nutrition for optimal brain function and learning
- The need for sleep and the impact of sleep disturbances
- The effect of stress and emotion on learning
- The biological basis for activities and substances that impact on brain health and learning

6. Meet Your Brain - Meet Your Future

This is a workshop to excite hope in the future and can be suitable for all ages. Students are introduced to knowledge of simple neurology and cognition. In each session in this workshop there will be demonstration and instruction, use of high quality animations, modelling, problem solving, interactive games and creative design. Realising the importance of brain health sets the platform for informed choice. Understanding the basis for emotion and behaviour builds confidence and empathy. Learning how to learn empowers individuals to take responsibility.

7. WENZIT Working – Brain Care

A workshop stressing the things that students can do to make their learning and their lives easier by looking after their brains! This is particularly good at creating discussion within students about sleep, breakfast, exercise and substance use. Realising the importance of brain health sets the platform for informed choice and empowers individuals to take responsibility for their learning.

8. WENZIT Working – Study Skills for Life

This workshop is particularly useful for students moving between stages – those entering high school or moving into senior studies for example. The importance of learning how to learn is emphasised and the Information Processing Model is used to help understand the way that the brain learns. Students will be engaged in experiencing the language of learning and will look at a wide variety of strategies that can be used to acquire and retain knowledge. Clay modelling and many interactive games are used.

9. WENZIT Working Against You – Life Choices

Realising the importance of brain health sets the platform for informed choice. This workshop helps prepare students to make life choices. It is aimed at adolescents and incorporates current research into the adolescent brain, and examples of activities and substances that impact on learning and life choices. Nutrition and hydration, exercise, sleep of the right type and in appropriate amounts are addressed as they impact on the needs of senior students. Substance use and abuse is discussed in terms of biology and history. Students see how much of an impact they can have on making school as hard as they choose and how this is also true of life after school.

Empowering Parents

(2 -3 hours)

Parent information evenings or orientation programs

10. WENZIT Working for Families

Engaging families in discussion about current research into tools for learning and for building positive relationships can be most empowering and can help to reduce stress on all sides. Parents understanding what schools are seeking to achieve for their children as well as understanding some of the simple learning strategies to help support their children’s learning and emotional development in partnership with teachers are critical to student success. Discussing patterns of emotional growth and well- being, especially to maintain self-esteem in adolescents, can be a great way to help school work for families.

Empowering Community Groups

(2 hours - 1 day)

Seminars for health professionals, interest groups and corporate groups

These programs are available as short talks or longer workshops. Using the current research in neuroscience and cognition, participants are introduced to how the brain learns, remembers, makes decisions and forms concepts. Understanding the importance of concepts in decision making helps participants to recognise the value of brain compatible strategies in empowering communities and leaders to help those around them.

11. WENZIT Working - Health Choices

This seminar is aimed at communicating the importance of concept change to empower individuals to make choices about lifestyles, substance use and substance abuse. It can be targeted to suit community groups or for health professionals who would like to investigate ways of communicating health choices. Realising the importance of brain health sets the platform for informed choice.

12. WENZIT Working in Sport

Realising the importance of brain health sets the platform for informed choice. Understanding the basis for how the brain learns new skills helps coaches and athletes to challenge how best to teach and practise them. The current findings of neuroscience regarding the importance of intrinsic motivation, big picture views and timely feedback are emphasised.

13. LEADING With the Brain Forward

A program to engage business and community leaders with strategies to promote coherent and productive workplaces based on the current research in neuroscience. Understanding the basis for emotion and behaviour builds confidence and empathy. Learning how to learn empowers individuals. Using models and interactive games different communication and leadership styles are modelled. The benefits of an individual Learning and Career Profiling System are discussed.

“Excite, Engage and Empower for Learning and for Life”

www.activeaxonseducation.com.au

Active Axons Education and Training would be delighted to discuss conference speaking topics with you. Weis also more than happy to work with participating sites in developing more individualised programs and can incorporate different workshops to meet your areas of interest or need.

If you would like further information or just would like to have a chat about your options, please contact Kery O’Neill BVSc Dip Ed at kery@activeaxonseducation.com.au