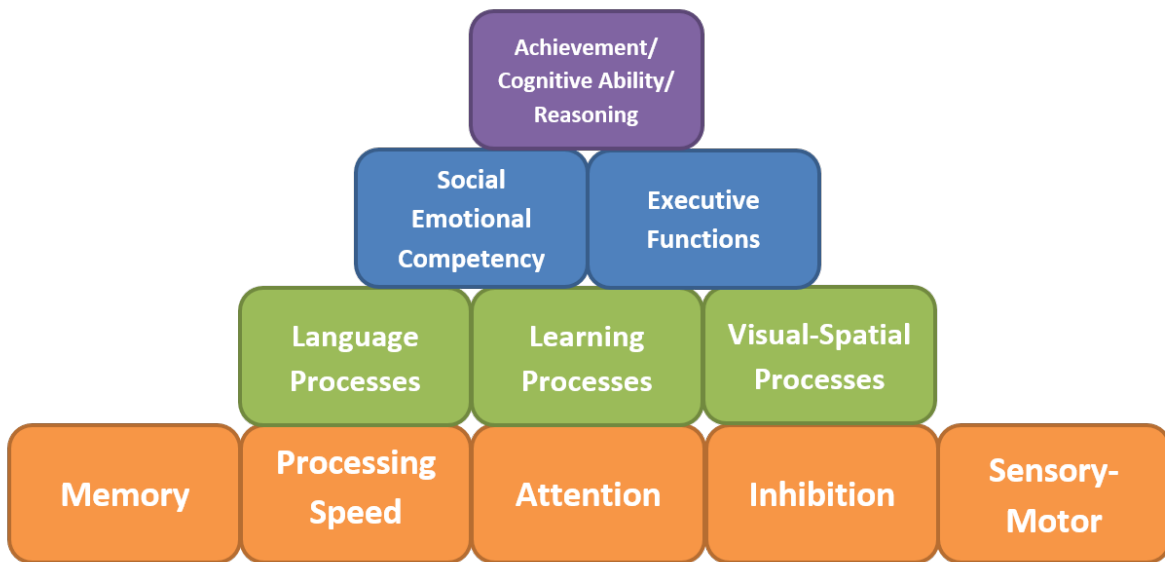


All About My Brain



Building Blocks of Brain Development ©



The Hierarchy of Neurocognitive Functioning © - created by Peter Thompson, Ph.D. 2013, adapted from the works of Miller 2007; Reitan and Wolfson 2004; Hale and Fiorello 2004.

The Building Blocks of Brain Development © – further adapted by the CO Brain Injury Steering Committee, 2016.

Here is some information about my brain and how it works...

Every brain is different for lots of reasons. The Building Blocks of Brain Development helps everyone understand their own brains. The building blocks – especially the ones in orange, are very important for how I learn, feel, and behave. All of the building blocks work together. So, if one of them is “off,” it can affect all the others. My building blocks work differently, so I may not act the same as my classmates. With a little help and understanding, I can be successful at home and school.

The Building Blocks are listed below. I have checked the ones that are hard for me.

Fundamental Building Blocks (Orange)

- ___ **Attention:** It is difficult for me to focus on my work and ignore the people, noises, and activities around me.
- ___ **Inhibition:** It is difficult for me to stop, think, and make good decisions before I say or do something.
- ___ **Processing Speed:** It takes me longer than most of the other students to think of a response.
- ___ **Memory:** I forget what the teacher said, how to do things, and what I was asked to do.
- ___ **Sensory Processing:** I am bothered by lights, sounds, smells, or the way things taste or feel.
- ___ **Motor Processing:** I accidently fall or bump into people or objects. I feel dizzy and can't keep my balance.

Intermediate Building Blocks (Green)

Language:

- ___ **Receptive:** I get confused by the words people are saying or what they are asking me to do.
- ___ **Expressive:** I can't think of my words or my words get stuck in my brain and will not come out.
- ___ **Social Pragmatic:** I get confused about how I am supposed to behave or why other people do the things they do.
- ___ **Learning:** I have a hard time learning new information.
- ___ **Visual-Spatial:** I get confused by visual information (things I see) like graphs, maps, pictures.

Higher Order Building Blocks (Blue)

- ___ **Social Emotional Competency:** I have a hard time controlling my behavior and feelings like worries, anger, and sadness.

Executive Function:

- ___ **Planning:** I have a hard time figuring out and completing all the steps of a large project and getting it done on time.
- ___ **Organization:** I forget to complete and turn in my homework on time. My room, backpack, and desk/locker are messy, and I can't find what I need.
- ___ **Initiation:** Even when I want to start assignments and projects, I need help to get going.
- ___ **Mental Flexibility:** Changes in the schedule or plans are very upsetting for me. I get upset when I have to stop what I am doing.
- ___ **Reasoning:** I struggle with thinking of a solution, or one that will not get me into trouble when there is a problem.



For ideas on how to support me or to evaluate my Building Blocks go to:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-tbi>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/fasd>

<https://cokidswithbraininjury.com/educators-and-professionals/brain-injury-matrix-guide/>

For more information or professional development on:

- The Building Blocks of Brain Development, Assessments, and Interventions
- Brain Injury and Special Education Eligibility
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Effects of Pre-natal Substance Exposure
- Developing a BrainSTEPS Consulting Team in your school district

Please contact: **Exceptional Student Services Unit**

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped>

303.866.6694