



MOORINGSPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mooringsport Elementary School was given the opportunity to partner with LearningRx of Shreveport/Bossier during the 2010-2011 school year. This partnership afforded the at-risk students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade to participate in the "Brainskills" program provided by the company to increase cognitive skills.

The students were given, by way of computer, the Gibson Test which tested their ability in seven major cognitive skill categories. We found the information procured from this test very beneficial. The teachers had a better understanding of their students' learning styles through this information. The scores in the different skill areas helped us as educators realize why the students were having difficulties retaining information. This information helped to lower the frustration level of the teachers who were working so hard with their students but having little sustaining results. We also used the information from the Gibson Test as a tool to us when meeting with parents in conferences. The information provided direction to resources to help the students in their weaknesses.

The Learning Rx staff was so helpful as they came to the school to provide professional development for the teachers in the areas of brain research. The entire faculty was "put through the paces" to learn their cognitive strengths and weaknesses. Many were surprised as their scores were harvested from their test. The Learning Rx staff provided solid research to back the philosophy of retraining the brain to increase learning ability. The faculty began to understand the patterns in their lives (work/home) and their learning styles which increased empathy to their students. The professional development was an eye-opener for many of the teachers, especially the more seasoned teachers on staff.

The actual Brainskills program was well received by the students due to the computer driven games that they played to increase the brain's cognitive areas. Several students really excelled as the LearningRx staff worked individually with them and provided incentives for increased proficiency on the computer. We started the program early in the school day to make sure we had time to rotate the three grade levels through the complete program. The first rotation students would jump off the bus and hurry to get on the computer, anxious to begin. The staff had to make sure they went to breakfast first, some wanted to bypass the cafeteria to get started. The students were so proud of their accomplishments as they became more proficient in the program. The teachers received frequent data to chart the progress of their students. We used this data as an excellent tool in parent conferences and School Building Level Committee (SBLC) meetings to confirm strengths and weaknesses. This in-depth information helped drive the educational path of our students and acquire specific resources as needed.

Our association with LearningRx and the Brainskills program was very beneficial due to the cutting edge research we were able to tap into to give our students extensive support in enhancing their learning ability. The parental input was so positive at the culminating event of the Brainskills program completion ceremony. The parents let us know they have seen improvement in their children at home with increased listening, organization and follow through on chores. These reports excited our faculty because it is our greatest desire to teach the "whole" child and have a positive effect on every aspect of their lives.

Respectfully,

Debbie Kurkiewicz, *principal*