**Title of Conference:** Equipping Minds Cognitive Development Curriculum Level I & 2 Certification

**Instructional Methods and Materials:** Lecture, Audience participation, Handouts, Case Studies and Demonstrations All participants will receive the *Equipping Minds Cognitive Development Curriculum and Equipping Minds Student Workbook.* All of the games and manipulatives were provided for participants to use during the conference.

**Instructional and Contact Hours:** 35 hoursApril 14-18, 2025 9am-5pm

**Conference Description:** Equipping Minds Cognitive Development Curriculum Level 1 equips educators, therapists, parents, and other specialists in our multi-disciplinary approach, which increases anyone’s capacity to learn. You will be introduced to the theories of Structural Cognitive Modifiability and Mediated Learning, the role of primitive reflex & neuro-developmental therapy, nutritional therapy, sound therapy, vestibular therapy, vision therapy, and cognitive developmental therapy. You will be provided with a proven set of exercises in these areas through a hands-on approach. This conference is designed for those who want to implement this program into their private practice, learning center, school or home. You will learn a holistic approach to increase cognitive skills for learners of all ages and abilities. These exercises will not only benefit your students but will enhance your own memory, executive functioning, and reasoning skills.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

* Participants will learn the research behind Equipping Minds Cognitive Development Curriculum and neuroplasticity.
* Participants will learn the theories of Structural Cognitive Modifiability and Mediated Learning Experience of Dr. Reuven Feuerstein as well as some of his instruments.
* Participants will learn the efficient and deficient cognitive functions identified by Dr. Feuerstein at the input, output, and elaboration phase of learning.
* Participants will learn howwhole person wellness relates to cognitive function and how mind and body health effect brain development.
* Participants will learn seven primitive reflexes, the symptoms associated with each, how to assess, and how to integrate.
* Participants will learn how to assess the visual, auditory, vestibular, and cognitive systems and which interventions to use.
* Participants will learn cognitive training exercises in visual and auditory processing, working and long-term memory, attention, comprehension, executive functioning, logic and reasoning.
* Participants will learn classroom connection guidelines for math, spelling, vocabulary, reading, history, science, and writing using Equipping Minds.
* Participants will understand the *mind of the struggling learner*.
* Participants will learn the benefits of homeschooling struggling learners.
* Participants will learn how to use the Equipping Minds Cognitive Curriculum workbook and the ROSES program
* Participants will learn Aristotle’s Ten Categories of Being and how to implement into therapy and the classroom setting.
* Participants will learn the benefits of rehabilitating the auditory system with Sound Therapy.
* Participants will learn how the physical and sensory issues can be addressed simultaneously with cognitive maturation using a combination of verbal and reflexive tools.
* Participants will learn how trauma and stress impact behavior, social skills, communication, and learning.

**Presenters Qualifications:**

**Dr. Carol Brown** **Ed.D** Executive Director and Educational Specialist of Equipping Minds, has been working with children and families who have struggled academically and psychologically since 1981. She received her BA in Rehabilitation Counseling from Marshall University, MA in Social Services from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in Educational Leadership from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She sought additional training in cognitive development therapy, primitive reflex therapy, sound therapy, vision therapy, nutritional therapy, and vestibular therapy and combines these in her multi-disciplinary therapy program. Carol is licensed and certified as an FIE Mediator by the Feuerstein Institute for the Enhancement of Learning Potential. She is a contributing author in the *Neuroscience and Christian Formation and Human Development: Equipping Minds with Cognitive Curriculum, and School Violence and Primary Prevention.* She also wrote the *Equipping Minds Cognitive Development Curriculum and Human Development: Equipping Minds with Cognitive Curriculum.*

**Rafaele Joudry MPsych** Rafaele is a world leader and educator on Sound Therapy and the discoveries of Dr Tomatis. Rafaele holds a Masters of Psychology specializing in Sound Therapy. Since founding [Sound Therapy International](https://mysoundtherapy.com/) in 1989, Rafaele has authored dozens of articles plus three best-selling books: *Sound Therapy: Music to Recharge Your Brain,Triumph Over Tinnitus and Why Aren’t Learning?* Her books describe the remarkable power of Sound Therapy to improve ear function and brain integration, resulting in beneficial results for numerous conditions. **Session: *Using Music to Change the Brain and Learning***

**Kathy Johnson Ms Ed** Kathy earned her BS at Clarkson University in Management and Marketing, and received her MS Ed from State University of New York at Albany in Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology. She is trained in Therapeutic Listening by Sheila Frick, Primitive Reflexes by Samuel A. Berne, Brain Gym 101, Irlen Screening Certification

PACE Cognitive Enhancement Program by Learning Rx, Phono-Graphix Reading Instructional Program by Read America, and Introduction to Rhythmic Movement Training. **Session:** ***Primitive Reflex Therapy***

**Dr. David Lindemann MD** David is the director of the Coalesco center. Following 8 years training and serving as a physician in the US Army at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Eisenhower Army Medical Center (as Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation), David left the military in 2017 to start Coalesco Project and pursue his dream of offering care and healing to individual clients, equipping and training professionals, and increasing awareness of both the possible and practical aspects of true healing.  His particular focus is on integrating the cognitive and physiologic aspects of growth and healing so that physical and sensory issues can be addressed simultaneously with cognitive maturation using a combination of verbal and reflexive tools.  He works primarily with clients whose physical or cognitive issues stem from abuse or neglect, as well as more general types of trauma. **Session:** ***Hope and Healing from Trauma: Integrating the Cognitive and Physiologic Aspects of Growth and Healing***

**Clayton Brown BS**Clayton has a BS in Counseling from Boyce College and has been an educational specialist with Equipping Minds for eight years. **Session: *Understanding the Mind of the Struggling Learner and Study Skills***

**Faith Berens, MA Ed.**  Faith holds a master’s degree in reading from Shenandoah University. She has over 15 years teaching experience serving as a classroom teacher, Reading Recovery teacher, reading specialist, and educational therapist. Her areas of expertise are early childhood literacy, reading assessment, and the identification and remediation of reading difficulties. Faith is a Special Needs Consultant for HSLDA. **Session: Equipping Minds for Reading**

**Ann Maura Hinton MA Ed.** Ann Maura holds a master’s degree in Special Education from the University of Tennessee. She joined the Lifeline team in August of 2017 and serves as an Education Specialist. She brings with her over 25 years of teaching experiences in a variety of different settings and with a variety of different disabilities. She loves to learn and is constantly looking for new ways to help build a bridge from frustration to hope alongside families in need. She is a certified Cognitive Developmental Therapist. **Session:** ***Equipping Minds through* *Trauma-Informed Lens and Interventions***

**Karen Hurd MS**Karenwill be presenting at Level 1 and Level 2. You are what you eat, digest, and absorb. But what if one or more parts of that process aren’t functioning properly? And what does the food we eat have to do with how your brain functions? Diet can have a huge impact on one’s ability to learn, process, and store information, and is an integral part of a holistic approach to improved cognitive function. Karen will discuss the implications of diet as it relates to children with learning challenges. Karen is a graduate of the American Academy of Nutrition (now called Huntington College of Health Sciences), doing her coursework in Comprehensive Nutrition. This institution is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), which is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency. She received her Master of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Saint Joseph in December 2017 and is currently enrolled at The George Washington University in the Master of Public Health program. Karen has been married to her husband, Steven, for 42 years. They have five children, ages 26 through 35 years Session: Impact of Nutrition on Learning Challenges

**Monday, April 14 9:00 am-5pm EDT Level 1**

* 9:00 am Dr. Carol Brown ***Research Behind Equipping Minds Holistic Approach to Cognitive Development:****Participants will learn that the brain can change, as the latest research on neuroplasticity has proven. Cognitive and educational gains have been proven with this evidence-based curriculum, which everyone can replicate and use. We know that physical, cognitive, behavioral, and relational skills develop together rather than in isolation. Providing a more holistic approach to build challenge areas and enhance strengths increases confidence, communication skills, memory skills, comprehension, processing skills, and relational skills. Treating the whole person through a multidisciplinary approach will give the best results.*
* 9:30 am Clayton Brown:  ***Understanding the Mind of the Struggling Learner:****Clayton will share his personal story of having a severe language processing disorder, dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia. He’ll take you through his 19-year journey of unending therapies and finally graduating from college on the Dean’s List with no symptoms of his previous challenges. He is a gifted speaker, writer, and educational therapist who is giving hope to learners who have challenges.*
* 10:00 am Dr. Carol Brown ***Equipping Minds Cognitive Development Curriculum Overview****Participants will review the key sections of the workbook and how to use each area.*
* 11:00 am Dr. Carol Brown:***Assessing and Developing Cognitive Functions****Feuerstein defines cognitive functions as “thinking abilities” that can be taught, learned, and developed. Feuerstein has categorized the cognitive functions according to the three major phases of the mental act—namely, input, elaboration, and output. Although artificially separated into three phases, they don’t necessarily occur separately in life. However, the subdivision is useful to analyze and describe thinking as well as determine what factors might negatively affect thinking. This model can be used by teachers and parents to better understand and help the child who is experiencing difficulties with a particular task. Learn how to access your learner’s strengths and challenges. Understand how and when to integrate exercise, nutrition, vision therapy, sound therapy, neurodevelopmental/ movement therapy, vestibular therapy, and cognitive therapy.*
* 12:00 Lunch –
* 1:00- 2:00 pm Dr. Carol Brown***Equipping Minds Sessions Overview***  *Carol will walk participants through the first ten sessions of the program and how to implement in the school day. The lesson plans for the 30 hours of intervention in the Equipping Minds research study will also be discussed.*
* 2:00-5:00 pm Dr. Carol Brown***Exercises to Improve Processing, Language, and Working Memory****Participants will learn the foundational exercises for developing language processing, visual processing, auditory processing, and working memory.*

**Tuesday, April 15 9:00am-5pm EDT   Level 1**

* 9:00 am Carol Brown & Kathy Johnson ***Accessing and Integrating Primitive Reflexes:*** *Participants will learn seven primitive reflexes, the symptoms associated with each, how to test, and how to integrate. These reflexes help provide the newborn with learning experiences that act as a foundation for more complex muscle movements and later cognitive tasks. The reflexes are integrated into a sequential fashion from 3-11 months. Lack of integration of these reflexes past 6-12 months can interfere with cortical and cerebellum processing and affect learning, movement, and attention.*
* 9:45 am Dr. Carol Brown:***Understanding the Visual, Auditory, and Vestibular System*** *Learn the importance of the vestibular system, visual processing, and auditory processing to learning. Learn the exercises to connect these pathways. The work of Dr. Harold Levinson on the vestibular system and treatment with anti-motion sickness supplements will be examined.*
* 10:30 am Dr. Carol Brown: ***Exercises for the Brown 6-9 N Back****Dr. Carol Brown developed an adaptive n-back with nine tasks or the “Brown N Back” in which learners were asked to associated animals with symbols, vowels with sound, symbols, and colors, numbers with symbols and colors, recall images and sequence of US presidents, identify colors, and identify directions of left, right, up, and down. To Brown’s knowledge, there has not been a Six N-back task that utilizes a human mediator requiring the learner to hear auditory instructions, use their hands to write or place a cube while holding a pattern for nine categories, and saying what they are doing.*
* 12:00 pm Lunch –
* 1:00-4:00 pm Dr. Carol Brown: ***Foundations for Intelligent Thinking with Aristotle’s Ten Categories to Develop Comprehension and Critical Thinking****Learn the ten categories and how to use Socratic questioning with a picture. Comprehension is the ability to remember and understand what you read. One can “see” the details of a passage, as well as understand the general concepts. The ancient Greeks were the first to grasp the importance of imagery, or, as we may say today, “making a movie in your mind,” when reading or listening.  Learn exercises to develop comprehension and critical thinking.*
* 4:00-5:00 pm Faith Berens ***Prepare the Brain for Reading, Math, and Writing***Faith will discuss the cognitive skills needed for success in reading, math, and writing and how to strengthen these areas.

**Wednesday, April 16 9:00-5 pm EDT   Level 1 & Level 2 Combined Day**

* Ann Maura Hinton ***Equipping Minds through*** ***Trauma-Informed Lens and Interventions****Participants will learn how trauma and stress impact behavior, social skills, communication, and learning. Ann Maura will share the best practices from the leading experts in the field.*
* 9:00- 10:00 Karen Hurd ***Nutrition and Brain Development****You are what you eat, digest, and absorb. But what if one or more parts of that process aren’t functioning properly? And what does the food we eat have to do with how your brain functions? Diet can have a huge impact on one’s ability to learn, process, and store information, and is an integral part of a holistic approach to improved cognitive function. Karen will discuss the implications of diet as it relates to children with special needs.*
* 10:00- 12:00 Dr. David Lindemann:***Hope and Healing from Trauma: Integrating the Cognitive and Physiologic Aspects of Growth and Healing*** *Participants will learn how the* *physical and sensory issues can be addressed simultaneously with cognitive maturation using a combination of verbal and reflexive tools.*
* 12:00-1:00 Lunch – Provided
* 1:00- 4:00 Dr. Carol Brown: ***Implementing Cognitive Training into your Day.****Public, private and homeschools are implementing Equipping Minds in to their daily schedule with learners of all abilities. We will be practicing the different games and exercises to learn how to implement one on one, small group, and in large classrooms. Learn how to integrate into different subject areas. This can be used in numerous settings: adult living centers, workplace, orphanage, learning center, clinic, special needs camp, church, and anywhere learners are struggling with memory and learning.*
* 4:00-5:00 Rafaele Joundry:***Importance of the Auditory System and how Sound Therapy can Rehabilitate the Ear and Impact Learning****Sound Therapy is a unique listening system using new knowledge about the brain. The Sound Therapy program is designed to work synergistically with other treatments, meaning that both methods enhance each other. Based on the discoveries of the ear specialist, Dr. Tomatis, the Sound Therapy method developed by Patricia and Rafaele Joudry is specially recorded programs of highly filtered classical music are used to rehabilitate the ear and stimulate the brain. Sound Therapy stimulates the ear by presenting it with constantly alternating sounds of high and low tone within the complex structure of classical music. Stimulation via the sensory pathway’s re-maps the brain, improving the way we understand and process sound. The brain, in turn, sends signals back to the ear to improve its function. As the ear becomes open and receptive to high frequency sounds these are then passed on to the brain. Research has shown that brain function is improved through high-frequency sound. Participants will also listen to sound therapy.*

**Thursday, April 17 9:00am-5:00pm EDT  Level 2**

* 9:00 Dr. Carol Brown ***Results of Equipping Minds Research Study*** ***and Contributions to Precedent Literature***The five peer-reviewed journal articles in the Journal of Alternative Medicine Research will be discussed as well as the book Human Development: Equipping Minds with Cognitive Curriculum. Participants will discuss the results of the research study in detail.
* 9:30-10:00 Clayton Brown: ***Study Skills*** Clayton will share his study skill methods which are based on how the brain learns. He will explain the importance of scheduling, calculating the number of pages to read, 4 colored highlighting methods, writing and project guidelines, and the use of sound therapy for attention and processing.
* 10:00-12:00 Dr. Carol Brown: ***Conducting an Evaluation/ Dynamic Assessment***Learn how to access your learner’s strengths and challenges. Understand how and when to integrate exercise, nutrition, vision therapy, sound therapy, neurodevelopmental/ movement therapy, vestibular therapy, and cognitive therapy.
* 12:00-1:00 Lunch Provided
* 1:00 -2:00 Dr. Carol Brown ***Writing Recommendations and Understanding Psychological Testing***Participants will learn how to write up the results of the evaluation from the assessment, intake questionnaire, and learning screening.
* 2:00-4:00   Dr. Carol Brown: ***Advanced Cognitive Exercises***Participants will learn advanced steps for the exercises as well as additional exercises in the workbook not covered in Level 1.
* 4:00-5:00 Dr. Carol Brown:***Classroom Connection of Curriculum***Participants will learn how to use Equipping Minds throughout the school day.
* **Friday, April 18 9:00am-5:00pm EDT Level 2**
* 9:00-10:00 Dr. Carol Brown***Modifications and Questions*** Carol will demonstrate numerous modifications that she has used with learners with more severe neurodevelopmental disorders. There will also be a time for participants to ask questions regarding the implementation of the program.
* 10:00-11:00 Dr. Carol Brown ***Conducting Workshops for Groups and Classrooms*** Participants will learn how to conduct an eight-week workshop for community/church groups and how to implement in small groups and large classrooms in a public, private, or homeschool coop environment.
* 11:00-12:00 Dr. Carol Brown **Developing your Learning Center**
* 12:00-1:00 Lunch Provided
* 2:00-5:00 Dr. Carol Brown ***Practicing the Brown 6-9 N-Back Steps and Games*** Participants will demonstrate their ability to use the program.