Contents

Fo	reword by James Bellanca		xi
Ac	knowledgments		xv
Int	roduction		1
	Mediation: A Brief Description and Examples	1	
	A Word About Deficient Cognitive Functions	2	
	Reading This Book	3	
	Chapter Summaries	4	
	Knowing Your Authors	5	
1.	Learning Through Mediation		9
	Museums' Potential to Stimulate Learning	11	
	At a Museum: What Didn't Happen, Why, and Changing It	14	
	Recognizing Myths About Learning	21	
2.	The Mediated Learning Experience Defined		26
	Feuerstein: Mediator and Theorist	26	
	Theory of Mediation	30	
	The Three Partners of Mediation	33	
	Essential Aspects of Mediation	38	
	Summary: A Picture of Mediation	42	
3.	Mediated Learning in Action		44
	The FIE Programs: An Overview	44	
	FIE Lessons by Mediators	53	
	Summary: Imaginative, Authoritative, and Responsive Teaching	58	

	2	:	:
v	L	ι	ι

Contents

4.	Expert Mediators		59
	Mediation in Two Classrooms	60	
	Mediation in an Exhibit	66	
	Summary	69	
5.	Four Essential Cognitive Acts		71
	Acquiring Basic Competencies	71	
	Intersection of Basic Competencies	76	
	Summary: Mediation—The Connecting Link to Learning	85	
6.	Defining the Effectiveness of Learning Experiences		87
	The Cognitive Map	87	
	The Thinking Deficiencies Tool	97	
	Two Techniques to Enhance Learning	98	
	The Case for Mediation: Demetria's Story	101	
	Summary: Analytic Observation Tools	102	
7.	Creative Use of Effective Exhibits	1	03
	Learning from Rich Experiences	103	
	Providing Conflict-Producing Ideas	111	
	Appealing to Multiple Intelligences	114	
	Summary: Mediating Exhibits	117	
8.	More Essential Cognitive Acts	1	18
	Empathy	118	
	Acquiring New Skills	121	
	Mastering Varied Modalities	122	
	Collaborating	126	
	Complex Thinking Acts	129	
	Museums' Abundant Experiences	131	
	Summary: Mediating for Complexity	132	
9.	Blue Sky Partnerships	1	33
	Beliefs About Learning	133	
	Adult Interventions	138	

Museums as Partners	140
"What If" Ideas	143
Emily's Story: Mother as Mediator	147
Summary: Museums as Learning Centers	148
10. Enlarging the Cognitive Repertoire	149
Incongruence	149
Repetition	153
Transformation	158
Illusion	164
Stereognostic (Hand/Vision) Experiences	166
Summary: Challenging Designs	168
11. Stretching the Brain to Make Learning Happen	170
Motivation	170
Summary: Four Interrelated Factors in Learning	177
Moving from Concrete to Abstract Thinking	177
The Brain and Learning	182
Summary: When We Think and Learn	185
12. After Words	189
For Teachers	189
Questions to Ask of Exhibits	194
Summary: Prepare, Question, Discuss	198
Understanding Exhibit Design	198
Summary: Bringing Learning Home	201
Appendix A: List of Deficient Cognitive Functions	203
Appendix B: Children with Learning Challenges: Notes for Parents and Exhibit Designers	205
References	207
Index	213
About the Authors	219