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## **No Parroting Allowed!**

### **Learning Emergence by Asking Questions**



## **"Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD"**

**Questions for the Week of November 20, 2006**

When asked, "how do you best learn?" most people usually respond with either a technique, like, "in a classroom," or by naming their favorite sense, like, "I learn best visually." Unfortunately, this implies most people define "learning" as the ability to parrot the correct answer.

What is wrong with this? We believe that "parroting the correct answer" creates parrots, not students; dullards, not Einsteins. So how can we create more Einsteins? We believe, by asking questions **which are intended to provoke the student's own questions**. More important, we see this as the best way reawaken in students the love of learning.

This week's topic is, **"Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD."** Would you like to actually awaken your love of learning about this topic? You can, simply by reading the teacher's questions and then, by asking yourself, "what questions did these words just provoke in me?"

### **"Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD"**

#### **The Teacher's Questions** (asked by Inetta)

Hi John, During this past week, I've been working with clients who are diagnosed with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD. These questions came to me from my experiences in working with them during this week.

- How does the connection between our senses, emotions, and physical awareness affect our ability to picture?
- When babies come to something new, they move their bodies to conform to the physical configuration the new object to better understand it. How does this primitive response affect our bodies as an adult in shock?
- Personally and professionally I've found that when there is a connection with the the senses, emotions, and physical awareness; some memories are most vivid and easier to picture than

others. Does how we process information affect our ability to picture?

### **Sample Student Response Questions** (asked by John)

Curious coincidence. I work with physically challenged people and I have been trying to understand how a lack of physical ability affects a persons ability to connect? I have also modified a few homes and provided equipment for T.B.I. patients and noticed that there physical limitations become a place for me to connect with them. Unfortunately, given the nature of T.B.I. patients, meeting their expectations has been very difficult for me, considering Medicaid T.B.I. waiver budget issues and their level of need. I found that the T.B.I. patients I have had dealings with rarely see needs outside of their own. My questions are:

- Do T.B.I. patients experience needs outside of their own?
- Is there a relationship with the amount of trauma/damage and their ability to experience other peoples needs?
- How would a two deal with a T.B.I. patient who cannot experience other peoples needs given the very sad moments leading to their injury?



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*Learning Emergence by Asking Questions:  
Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD*

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