Dr. Mel Levine

- Professor of Pediatrics
- Director of the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning at UNC School of Medicine
- Founder and Co-chair of All Kinds of Minds
- Founder and Conductor of Schools Attuned
Demystification

- A knowledgeable adult describes and interprets a student’s strengths and weaknesses

- Schools Attuned workshops
5-Step Demystification Process

Step 1

Students learn the importance of understanding themselves

- All Kinds of Minds
- Positive tone
5-Step Demystification Process

Step 2

Celebrating Strengths

• Concrete examples
• Comparison with peers
• Avoid false praise
5-Step Demystification Process

Step 3

Describing Weaknesses

- Child friendly language
- Numbering
- Validation/Acceptance from student
- Student recites back
Step 4

Optimism and Motivation

• Weaknesses can be worked on
• Strengths can get stronger
• No one is to blame
• Future possibilities
5-Step Demystification Process

Step 5
Alliance Formation

- Reassurance of guidance in the future
- Not overly judgmental
- Genuine respect and admiration
Kim’s Story

Developing Control over Attention
Tell Me More…

- Website for All Kinds of Minds
- Schools Attuned
- Strands, Anser, Peer
- Neurodevelopmental Constructs
- The Memory Factory
- Books by Mel
How can I use this in my classroom?

- *All Kinds of Minds* as a read aloud in an inclusion classroom or general ed setting
- Sharing circle
- Brainstorming strengths and weaknesses
- “Dear Abby”-type letters
Benefits

- Builds classroom community
  - Understanding
  - Acceptance
  - Tolerance
  - Self-esteem
  - Awareness
- Children become compassionate members of society
“Success is like a vitamin. If you don’t get enough of it growing up, you’ll suffer a very severe deficiency that could have long-term impacts in your life.”

- Mel Levine
References

- The Myth of Laziness
- A Mind at a Time
- All Kinds of Minds
- Keeping A Head in School
- “Misunderstood Minds” (video)
- “A Table of Neurodevelopmental Constructs”
- “The Memory Factory Floor Plan”
- www.allkindsofminds
- www.oprah.com
- www.espbooks.com
- www.pbs.org/wgbh/misunderstoodminds.
Your Questions?
Thank you for your attention!!!