

# INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION

SOI was rooted in a testing theory – the Structure of Intellect – that was first used as an instrument of selecting people with a desired set of intellectual characteristics from the population as a whole.

The genius of Mary Meeker is that she transformed the selection use of the theory into an instrument for individual learning improvement.

The key to this transformation was her conviction that intellectual characteristics could be taught as well as measured.

Then the SOI assessment could be used to improve learning – find the intellectual weaknesses through testing and then improve learning through intellectual training.

SOI testing and training then became a powerful instrument in diagnosing and treating learning problems.

## SOI CLINICS

The first clinics were modeled after Mary's private practice. With experience in the schools – both as a teacher and a school psychologist – she quickly developed a reputation as a successful learning therapist.

The key to her success was the SOI test and training materials. In fact, the impetus for developing the format and protocols for the materials came directly from these early experiences in her practice.

When she reported case studies to a wider audience, there was a growing interest among learning therapists in being able to replicate her successes. They were asking for a template to model her practices.

Since the testing and the training were both grounded in the same SOI model of the intellect, the template of practice was conceptually straightforward:

1. test with the SOI test
2. analyze the results to derive an individual's learning profile
3. create a treatment plan by selecting those training materials that will address the client's learning weaknesses

This encapsulates the practice protocol of an SOI clinic. As the term "clinic" connotes, every client is treated individually, based on his or her assessed learning profile. And, as the term "clinic" implies, the focus is on identifying and eliminating the source of the learning problem rather than a palliative treatment of the symptoms.

This protocol became even more practical when SOI Systems developed a computer program that automatically derives the learning profile from the test results and creates the individual treatment program.

## SOI-IPP CLINICS

The success of the SOI clinics was significantly enhanced with the addition of the IPP component, which was incorporated to treat a set of problems that could affect learning on a level more basic than intellectual abilities – perceptual and sensory-integration capabilities that are the gateway for the data used in learning.

If a student's perceptual and sensory-integration capabilities are not in place, the success of the SOI clinics are diminished or, at the very least, much more difficult to attain.

After studying the situation, we determined that the vast majority of these pre-cognitive problems were amenable to treatment within the clinic. A clinical practice technique called "defined practice protocol" enabled us to offer treatment for the vast majority of these problems. Practice protocol is a concept borrowed from medical procedures. Doctors wanted a system to allow paraprofessionals to practice at a distance without direct, immediate supervision.

Written protocols were prescriptions for practice that enabled the paraprofessionals to practice at a distance with the doctors' assurance that they were performing correctly. IPP gave us the same reassurance that our paraprofessionals were practicing correctly – a computer program guided them through the decision matrix of practice.

Using this technique, we were able to correct the vast majority of pre-cognitive problems that clients had presented. This integrates pre-cognitive and intellectual abilities into the same clinical setting.

## **SOI CERTIFIED LEARNING**

SOI Certified Learning is a classroom program that is designed on principles of individualized education. Each and every student in the program is taught individually. They progress at their own speed with the recognition that some students need more time than others, and some students need less time than others.

They are given individual attention at the time that a learning problem is detected, and if they need more extensive help, they are referred to a mini SOI-IPP Clinic to deal with their pre-cognitive aptitudes and/or intellectual abilities that are inhibiting their progress.

In other words, SOI Certified Learning incorporates – at the formative years of kindergarten through grade two – all that we have learned about individual learning and the problems that may affect the individual student.