

# SOI PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Mary Meeker's insights with the Structure of Intellect were many. She applied the Structure of Intellect model to education, and most relevantly, she realized that the intellectual abilities could be taught as well as measured.

The SOI philosophy did not come from a formal mission statement. It simply developed over the years. It came organically from Dr. Mary Meeker and her professional devotion to individuals - especially children and adolescents.

She had the ability to see an individual's problem from the individual's point of view – the type of professional empathy that every clinician has. But her empathy became fully focused when she encountered Dr. J. P. Guilford's Structure of Intellect (SI) theory.

She immediately realized the relevance of Guilford's theory to many of the learning problems that she had encountered throughout her career as a classroom teacher and school psychologist.

That insight guided her first educational application of the SI theory – developing a test appropriate for school-age children and adolescents for use in schools.

That took SOI testing from just an instrument of selection into the problem-diagnosis-and-treatment of the educational mainstream.

But her most encompassing insight took her beyond the boundaries of intellectual abilities to appreciate how the whole person relates to learning – the physical and sensory skills, the social and emotional attributes, as well as the intellectual aptitudes. All of these things comprise the Meeker Paradigm.

Overall, Mary's guiding philosophy was to find a solution for every learning problem that she found students encountering – to apply available resources if they existed, and otherwise, to create a solution if at all possible.

That has been our guiding philosophy from the beginning.