

Faculty of Education Studies
EPCL Public Seminar 2009/2010
Chaired by Dr Kevin Chung



Prof. Dennis L. Molfese

Professor and Director of the Developmental Neuroscience Laboratory, University of Louisville, USA

How Neuroscience Can Help the Teacher in the Classroom

Abstract

Brain research is reviewed as it related to the ability of children to attend and process complex information. This work will illustrate how the child's brain supports and is influenced by changes in their cognitive abilities through their experience. Recommendations will be made as to how the teacher and the parent can use this information to maximize the effectiveness of their teaching at different stages during development.

Dennis L. Molfese, Ph.D. is an internationally recognized expert on the use of brain recording techniques to study the emerging relationships between brain development, language and cognitive processes. He received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1972. He is a Distinguished University Scholar, Professor and Director of the Developmental Neuroscience Laboratory at the University of Louisville. Dr. Molfese served as the Chair of a number of national panels on Learning Disabilities as well as on numerous NIH, NIMH and NSF grant review panels. He is co-director of one of 15 national laboratories in the U.S.A. that make up the National Institutes of Health Reading and Learning Disabilities Research Network. He is the recipient of a number of honors for outstanding research contributions from societies such as Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi and received the Kentucky Psychologist of the Year Award. A Fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society, he is the Editor-in-Chief for the scientific journal, *Developmental Neuropsychology*. Dr. Molfese's research has been continuously funded since 1975, obtaining over \$17,000,000.00 in research funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, Department of Education, The National Foundation/March of Dimes, the MacArthur Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, NATO, and NASA. Dr. Molfese has published some 150 books, journal articles, and book chapters on the relationship between developing brain functions, language and cognitive processes.

Prof. Victoria Molfese

**Ashland/Nystrand Chair in Early Childhood Education &
Director of the Center for Research in Early Childhood, University of Louisville, USA**

Emergent Literacy and Mathematics in Preschool Children: Understanding the Assessment of Critical Skills

Abstract

Proficiency in emergent literacy and mathematics skills at entry into kindergarten is strongly related to skills at the end of kindergarten and conventional reading and mathematics skills in first grade. Yet, U.S. studies identifying critical emergent skills and use of curricula designed to support these skills show evidence that emergent skills are not developing adequately. Research evidence is presented to support the importance of critical emergent skills in literacy and mathematics, and intervention approaches designed to strengthen these skills. The discussion will solicit ideas from studies of children in other than English speaking countries to better understand roles played by family activities, classroom practices, and developmental expectations in the development of emergent literacy and mathematics skills.

Victoria J. Molfese is the Ashland/Nystrand Chair in Early Childhood Education at the University of Louisville and Director of the Center for Research in Early Childhood. She studies the development of reading and mathematical skills in preschool children. Research activities currently underway include studies of early predictors of reading and mathematic abilities in preschool and school-aged children, efficacy of mathematics intervention in preschoolers on improving skills of at risk children, and the development of interventions for infants and preschoolers to mitigate development of learning disabilities.

27 October 2009 (Tue) from 12:30 to 2:30 pm
Block D1-Lower Podium-08, HKIEd

Organized by the EPCL Department

For registration, please send an email to Winnie, wpwchan@ied.edu.hk on or before 22 Oct 09.
Light refreshments will be provided to registered participants.