



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INSTITUTE'S
CENTER FOR LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Who Are We?

The CENTER FOR LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT (CLD) exists to pursue with other professionals, agencies, families and schools, better strategies which support children through the challenges of learning. In the past 30 years, significant strides have been made in the recognition, understanding, and remediation of learning disorders; however, translating this information so that it becomes useful to a single struggling child, the family, and the school who serves the child is a much more daunting task. We know that 1 of every 5 school children struggles with a learning problem. Children with learning disorders struggle daily and are at risk for many negative outcomes often suffering academic failure, loss of self-esteem and self-worth to the point they shut down, become behavior problems, drop out of school, or become delinquents. **We cannot afford to lose even one.**

Because these children don't fit a typical learning profile, they may not learn through traditional approaches. Yet, with the tremendous gains scientists and educators have made in our knowledge base, we must begin to integrate what we know from research into practice within our schools — not just to save them from negative outcomes but to truly maximize their incredible potential. Educating our children is a mighty task, and we place tremendous expectations upon our schools that are not achievable without community partnerships. Working with partners in developing better strategies is the philosophy shared by the professionals at CLD. In fact, that's what CLD is all about ... working with proactive partners in designing innovative solutions to more effectively meet the needs of all children in school. By joining partners within systems who serve youth and pooling our knowledge and resources, we can positively impact these systems and greater numbers of struggling youth.

The CENTER FOR LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT has a significant history impacting education and juvenile justice through training, prevention/intervention projects, and cutting-edge educational software. Since 1995, we have been entrusted with over 2.7 million dollars in grant funds including funds from the Office of the Governor - Criminal Justice Division, as well as, local foundations to implement prevention and intervention projects for youth at-risk for school failure, dropout, and juvenile delinquency. In addition, we have contracted with numerous Texas schools and educational service centers to implement school-based projects or provide training and consultation. CLD programs, projects and software have been featured at state and national conferences. Most notably, CLD's Grand Central Station program received, in 2003, recognition as a Promising Practice by the Texas Education Agency.

BHI's CENTER FOR LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT has become a hub from which training and best practices have been shared with educators, juvenile justice professionals, parents, and other community professionals who work with struggling youth across Texas and beyond. Projects include: serving over 16,000 participants through extensive training workshops on learning issues (TASB Approved Provider); assessing the effectiveness of an adolescent coping skills curriculum as a deterrent for negative behaviors in multiple settings (regular education, alternative education, and juvenile justice settings); writing age-appropriate coping skills curricula for use in the general education classroom to improve school climate and individual behavior; helping juvenile justice personnel address the issues surrounding learning-disabled delinquent youth; and building research-based, model demonstration programs for academically at-risk youth in school settings (dropout prevention programs, response-to-intervention programs, and reading remediation programs).