



PAIN IN THE BRAIN: TEEN LIBRARY (MIS) BEHAVIOR 101

Presented for CLA 2008 by Beth Gallaway

Library Behaviors

- Groups
 - Blocking entrance or access
 - Roaming
 - Taking up space
- "Courting" Behavior
- Backtalk and "disrespect"
- Eating & drinking
- Cell phone use



Library Behaviors

- Language
- Sex
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Violence
- Cyberbullying



Differentiate between the 2 Ds:

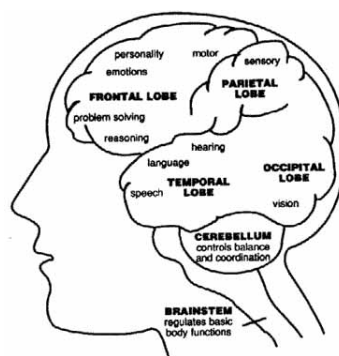
- Disruptive
 - ▣ Normal
 - ▣ Annoying
- Dangerous
 - ▣ Abnormal
 - ▣ Harmful to self & others
 - ▣ Illegal

Why Do They Act Like That?

- They hate the library
- They hate YOU (the librarian)
- It's a contest

Because of...

- Ignorance
- Developmental needs
- Lack of sleep
- Brain development
- Society
- Culture
- Other?



On Rules

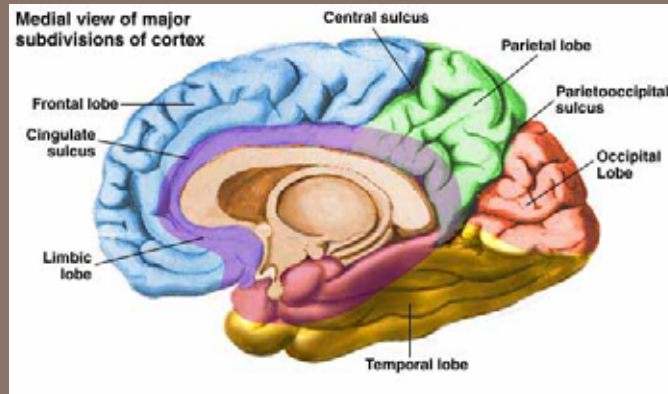
- Create a behavior policy
- Same rules for everyone
- No rules set up to fail
- The less rules, the better
- Word rules in a positive way
- Leave rules open ended

Developmental Needs

- Positive Social Interaction with Adults & Peers
(seek attention, socialization)
- Structure & Clear Limits
(push boundaries, challenge authority)
- Physical Activity
(run from computer to computer, roam)
- Creative Expression
(vandalism, MySpace)
- Competence & Achievement
(competitive behavior, Runescape obsession)
- Meaningful Participation
(opinated, socialization)
- Opportunities for Self-Definition

National Middle School Association (1996). *Research Summary: Young Adolescent's Developmental Needs*, 2006

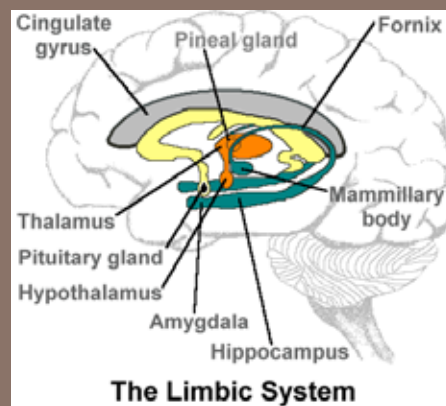
CORTEX CHANGES



Source:

<http://www.brainviews.com/abFiles/DrwMedlobes.htm>

LIMBIC SYSTEM



Source:

<http://normandy.sandhills.cc.nc.us/psy150/brain.html>

Behavioral Strategies

- Boundary setting is extremely important
- Address behavior in terms of actions and consequences in a matter of fact, non-threatening manner

Set Boundaries

- Get their attention!
- State unacceptable behavior
- Optional: explain why it's unacceptable
- Offer choices in terms of consequences of actions

Keep in Mind...

"Librarians do not kick teens out of the library. Teens get themselves kicked out of the library, because of their behavior."

~ Nick Buron, NYPL, Queens Branch

Follow Through

- Welcome back
- Introduce
- Discuss behavior incident
- Reinforce consequences of actions
- Start with a clean slate

Stop it before it starts!

1. Create raving fans of the library
2. Develop personal relationships
3. Give them a space of their own
4. Program them to death

Reminders for Librarians

- Stay calm
- It's not personal
- Teens are job security
- Learn to RAP

RAP

- Remember
- Accept
- Project

Contact

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<http://www.slideshare.net/informationgoddess29/>

Links:
<http://www.delicious.com/informationgoddess29/brain>

