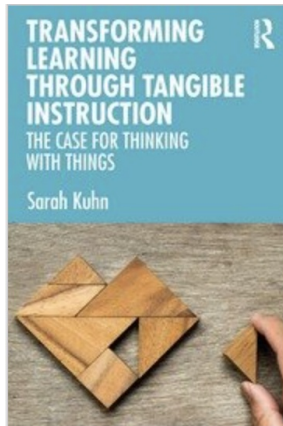




LEGO SERIOUS PLAY HAS US THINKING WITH THINGS



Part of the power of LEGO SERIOUS PLAY comes from its use of physical materials—LEGO bricks—to ground a process that can lead to important changes in individuals and organizations. Why is the use of LEGO bricks and other materials so important to learning and discovery? In her new book, *Transforming Learning Through Tangible Instruction*, author Sarah Kuhn lays out what she calls “**the case for thinking with things.**” Drawing on her 30 years of experience in the college classroom and a wide variety of scientific and historical evidence, she makes a compelling case for the value of physical materials in the learning process.

THINKING WITH THINGS IS A NATURAL ACT

But wait—don’t we think with our brains? Of course, but not with our brains alone. Instead, we think with an entire system that includes our brains, our hands, our entire bodies, and our immediate environments. Academics call this “**embodied**” thinking, and research increasingly demonstrates that if we are prevented from using our hands and our bodies to learn, we are being asked to perform an unnatural act. When we send learners into a room and tell them to sit still, face the instructor, and take notes, we are stopping them from using their most powerful tool, the product of millennia of evolution: the ability to learn and think with things. Some learners can survive this educational “sensory deprivation chamber” better than others, but for everyone it is less than ideal.

THINKING WITH THINGS IS NOT ABOUT AGE

One barrier to the universal adoption of approaches like LSP is a widespread belief that adults get no value from using physical materials because, from a developmental point of view, they have become abstract thinkers. Professor Kuhn makes the case that this belief comes from a misreading of the literature on human development, and that learners evolve from “concrete” to “abstract” thinkers not because they have aged from child to adult but because they have moved, in a particular field, from novice to expert. It follows that anyone, no matter their age, can benefit from “thinking with (physical) things” when they are learning something new.

EVIDENCE FOR WHAT WE EXPERIENCE WITH LSP

For LSP practitioners and participants, Kuhn’s book makes a rich and extensive case, carefully grounded in evidence, for **why thinking with things is important to all who are trying to learn new things and explore novel solutions.** Although her book particularly focuses on the college classroom, her conclusions apply to all settings. To learn more, visit her web site at <https://www.thinkingwiththings.com/>

Sincerely,

R. Rasmussen

[Check out the latest facilitator training calendar](#)



Rasmussen Consulting specializes in using LEGO SERIOUS PLAY to effectively harvest an organization's collective intelligence to build a better business. We are also the leading organization for training and certifying facilitators in the LEGO SERIOUS PLAY method. You can view our training schedule at www.rasmussenconsulting.dk.