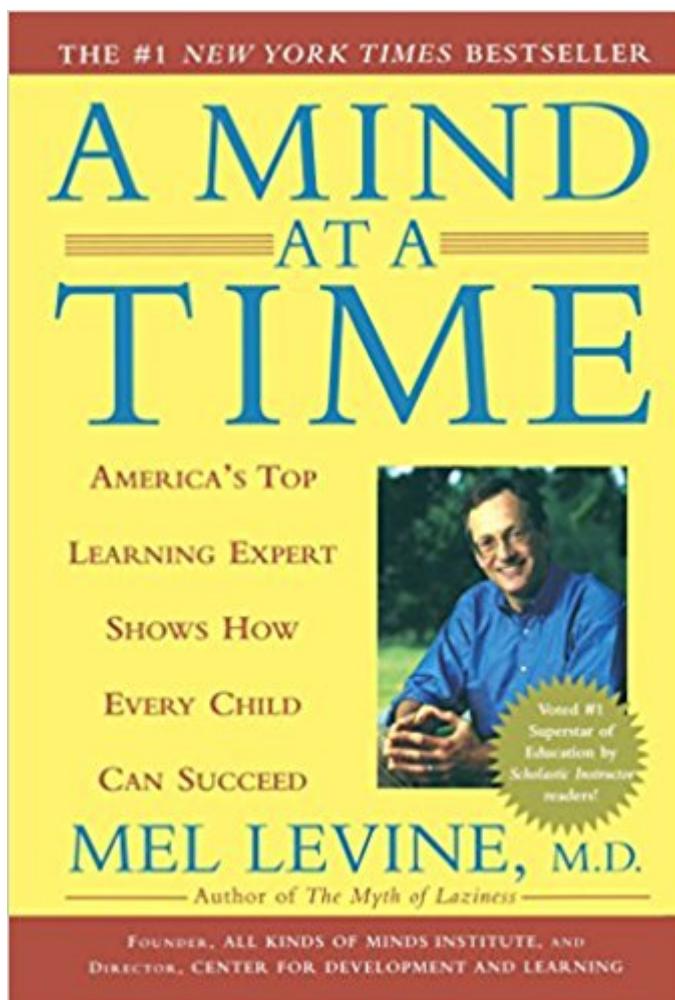


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# A Mind At A Time: America's Top Learning Expert Shows How Every Child Can Succeed



## **Synopsis**

"Different minds learn differently," writes Dr. Mel Levine, one of the best-known learning experts and pediatricians in America today. Some students are strong in certain areas and some are strong in others, but no one is equally capable in all. Yet most schools still cling to a one-size-fits-all education philosophy. As a result, many children struggle because their learning patterns don't fit the way they are being taught. In his #1 New York Times bestseller *A Mind at a Time*, Dr. Levine shows parents and those who care for children how to identify these individual learning patterns, explaining how they can strengthen a child's abilities and either bypass or help overcome the child's weaknesses, producing positive results instead of repeated frustration and failure. Consistent progress can result when we understand that not every child can do equally well in every type of learning and begin to pay more attention to individual learning patterns -- and individual minds -- so that we can maximize children's success and gratification in life. In *A Mind at a Time* Dr. Levine shows us how.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Worried about the growing tendency to medicate and attach stigmatizing labels (such as ADD) to problematic learners, Levine, cofounder of the nonprofit institute All Kinds of Minds, offers parents a heartening new model of learning based on his deep respect for the uniqueness of individual minds. Levine's soft-spoken reading style lends to the tapes a personal, compassionate and reassuring tone that would be lost in the written word, gently guiding parents to identify their child's strengths

and weaknesses in any of eight neurodevelopmental systems, including attention, motor, memory, language and social thinking. Describing himself as "a pediatrician with a mission," Levine confirms the resiliency of children's minds to overcome dysfunction, bolstering his argument with more than 30 years worth of case studies, stories of his own struggle with fine motor function, plenty of indicative symptoms corresponding to each "system of the mind" and helpful teaching concepts and tips to enhance all learning patterns. Levine's recommendation for listeners to follow up with his book and Web site rings true parents unfamiliar with their child's specific issues may find themselves a bit out of their depth, as the scope of this abridged version is extensive. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Howard Gardner Professor in Cognition and Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and author of *The Disciplined Mind* and *Frames of Mind* A wide-ranging exploration of the myriad ways in which young minds differ, coupled with vivid and useful recommendations about developing those minds to the fullest. Edward Hallowell, M.D. instructor, Harvard Medical School; director, The Hallowell Center, Sudbury, Massachusetts; author of *Driven to Distraction* and *Human Moments*. *A Mind at a Time* continues Mel Levine's enormously valuable lifework of helping children find success....Brimming with intelligence, humor, wit, and originality...this is a groundbreaking and useful book.

We used this book in a masters-level special education course this summer. While Levine's work may be helpful to a parent who has little information about students with special needs and current educational practices, everything in this book has been said before by serious researchers in cognitive development and educational psychology. If you're an educator, you've seen it before and from much more reputable sources. Levine doesn't even give credit to the educational and psychological heavyweights that have already explored these ideas before he packaged them in this book. Levine also pushes for some things he wishes schools would do, when his recommendations are already considered "best practice" in most school systems, showing that while he may have vast clinical experience as a physician, he isn't as well-versed as he could be in current educational practice. This may well stem from the fact that parents came to him when their schools were failing them - and so he had limited experience with schools that are doing things the right way. In addition to the lack of originality and familiarity with current educational research and practice, there is the question of continuing to hold Levine up as a pediatric authority given the accusations and events that ended his medical practice and ultimately his life. While his suicide

prevented the matter from ever being proven in a court of law, Levine surrendered his medical practice in more than one state following multiple accusations of misconduct with young patients in those states. The book includes more than one recommendation of matters that should be kept between young patient and doctor, where he recommends parents stay out of the conversation - creepy recommendations given what he was accused of. Given that his ideas can be found from many reputable education and medical sources, why use a source that is so tainted? Look to Gardner's work on Multiple Intelligences and you'll get everything you needed from Levine.

Book quality was fine but the Author is not to be respected and it is gross that schools would use books with this author with full awareness of the controversy surrounding him

An eye opening book that every education professional and student should read. Mel Levine writes about the education structure and how it works against the minds of certain kids. But if we change the way we address learning disabilities, we can change learning.

This is an extraordinary book. I read it to try to understand and help my grandson. I ended up seeing that all of have parts of our brains that are not high functioning, but that we each also have parts that are! We are truly uniquely and wonderfully made. Our education system needs to reflect that! I'm thrilled that NC seems to understand that and have begun to help teachers, parents and kids! Wonderful! While Dr. Levine is no longer with us, his work stands the test of time,

Not labeling kids but working around the little glitches in their to help them to succeed and feel good about themselves, what a novel idea and a darn good one!

To me this book is revolutionary. I plan on being a grade school teacher and have tutored for a number of years in grade school. When I read the book it was like someone did research into something I had been wondering about for years. The basic concept is that not all brains are wired the same. It describes different learning systems one of which is the Attention Control System or the ability to pay attention, which does not express a fullness of the concept. The section on this was especially important to me because when I work with students some of them just cannot get out of their own way they constantly get in trouble and don't seem to realize they are tempting fate constantly in the same way. I wondered why this was and tried to help to some success, but Dr. Levine took it to a whole other level. Dr. Levine with a background as a pediatrician and

commitment to understanding the process of learning places him perfectly to be able to write a book like this. He does an excellent job of breaking down his ideas and provides vignettes for each one, so there are real world examples. I found it interesting just for me because it helped me understand some of my own learning difficulties. I think it is great for anyone with an interest in education or for parents who want to help their children succeed in school.

I bought this book because I saw Dr. Mel Levine speak at a conference recently. He is an excellent speaker with really intriguing theories; many of which he details in the book "A Mind at a Time." While Dr. Levine is an enthusiastic and dynamic speaker with riveting anecdotes about his patients, his writing tends to be a little drier than his "in person" delivery. When he is telling these anecdotes and others in the book, it is gripping. The reader feels like they know the exact kid he is talking about, but a lot of the rest of the book is rather dry in its delivery. I love the message Dr. Levine has about each of us having learning differences and that learning to approach them and strategize a "work around" is the real solution, not labeling and medicating. I still plan on using this book for a study group in my school. I am hoping that as a group, we can cheer each other through the tougher sections. After the first 100 pages, I had to slot a day and time when I would read this book so that I didn't just put it down and never pick it up again. If you ever get the opportunity to hear Dr. Levine speak, jump at it.

This book is wonderful for parents and professionals alike. As a child therapist I learned a great deal about learning styles- information that will help me in my work. Much of the information was new to me, and it was explained in a way that was comprehensible. A great book!

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