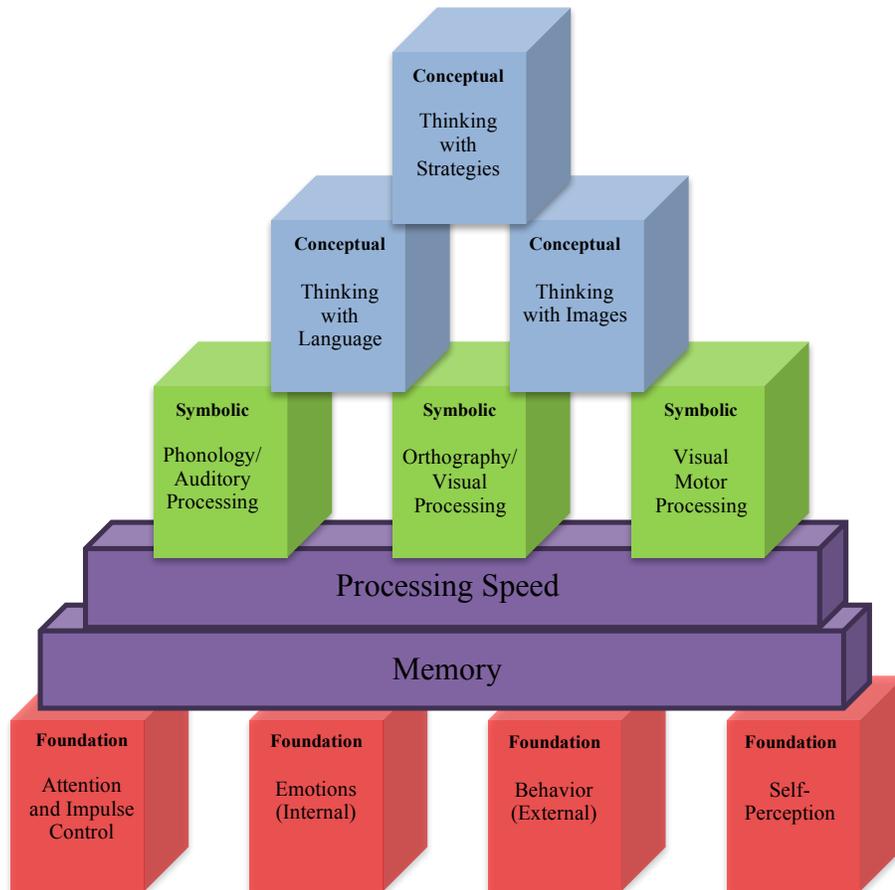


# The Building Blocks of Learning



## **Foundational**

### **Attention & Self-Regulation**

The ability to pay attention, self-regulate behavior, control impulses, complete tasks

### **Emotions**

Temperament and moods, motivation, attitude, internalizing/externalizing

### **Behavior**

Actions, social skills, compliance

### **Self-Perception**

Awareness of both strengths and abilities along with weaknesses

# Symbolic

## Phonology

Phonemic awareness (discriminate sounds), phonologic awareness (manipulate sounds), verbal short-term memory (remember what is heard), retrieval of names (e.g., difficulty remembering names/words/names of letters, etc.)

## Orthography

Concerning the writing systems of language, punctuation marks, capitalization, spelling patterns, recall of letter strings and word forms, mental representation of the image of a letter (imaging), automatic retrieval (quickly recalling) of letters/words

## Motor

Gross motor skills, fine motor skills, symbol production through writing, artistic expression through drawing

\*Note – a student’s ability to have the motor skills to draw may or may not be consistent with the ability to write letters and numbers (symbols)

# Conceptual

## Language

Understanding what is heard, comprehending written text, expressing ideas through speaking and writing, learning new vocabulary, use of grammar/syntax

## Images

Reproducing complex visual patterns and designs, understanding and judging spatial relationships, understanding affect (i.e., gestures and facial expressions), difficulty with math concepts (nonverbal LD)

## Strategies

Metacognition (thinking about thinking), executive functions (planning, organizing, monitoring, evaluating, reflecting), goal-directed behavior, the ability to effectively compensate/adjust for weaknesses

# Working Memory

May involve more than one block. The ability to apprehend information and rearrange it in a specified way

## **Processing Speed**

The ability to perform automatic cognitive tasks, particularly when measured under pressure to maintain focus

Information on the Building Blocks of Learning based on:

Mather, Nancy, Ph.D., Goldstein, Sam, Ph. D., (2008). *Learning Disabilities and Challenging Behaviors: A Guide to Intervention and Classroom Management*, (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing, Co.