

REUVEN FEUERSTEIN – the most important educationalist most teachers have never heard of

Why is he so important?



Refused to accept psychometric values and a label of 'uneducable'



Theorised role of parents and culture

- Children from the Holocaust and Mellah brought up with little or no parental care
- Radical separation from their own culture and possibility of cultural transference
- Had profound intellectual disabilities
- Blurred and weeping vision
- inability to focus or concentrate
- Poor self control
- Impulsive
- No sense of spatial or temporal orientation
- No understanding of cause and effect



How Do Parents Mediate Cognitive Skills

Feuerstein analysed successful parents – what did they do?

- Parents filter and interpret reality for the child
- Mediating interactions bestowed cognitive skills and pre-dispositions
- Parents' role culturally determined by their parents and grandparents
- When these links broken problems occur!



Feuerstein's achievements

- Established Intelligence was neither fixed nor hereditary. ...plasticity of mind and brain
- Thinking skills could be taught! Father of the Thinking Skills Movement
- Theorised the role of parents in 'transferring' skills and knowledge of the culture (Mediated Learning)
- Theorised the process by which deprivation influenced learning capacity
- Developed theory of cognitive deficiencies
- Developed programme for instrumentally installing the skills and habits of intelligence
- Theory of Structural Cognitive Modifiability