

**Book title: Accelerated Learning Pocketbook**

**Author:** Brin Best

**Publication date:** 2003

## **The review**

### **1. What is your overall impression of the book?**

'Accelerated Learner', written by multi award-winning author, educational consultant and teacher of 25 years, is compact with advice and techniques on how to make the maximum impact in the classroom, allowing pupils to reach their highest potential. Focusing on topics including teaching strategies, and creating the right environment for learning, Best explains ways to enhance professional develop and implement creative strategies to make teaching and learning a more enjoyable experience for both the teacher and the pupil.

The book instantly caught my eye due to its size. I am not usually deterred by larger books, however, I was looking for something I could use for quick reference and teaching advice that was concise and to the point. 'Accelerated Learning' does exactly that whilst still going into depth, providing enough information for the reader to get the full picture. The book is practical and pocket sized which made it easier to travel with, making information more accessible to me.

Brin Best has a vision is for a 'brighter future for children and young people in our schools, colleges and universities.' He is also committed to 'helping adults develop professionally and creatively throughout their careers. If you share this vision I'd like to work with you'.

'Accelerated Learning' demonstrates this vision clearly and has been insightful and valuable read.

### **2. Who do you think would benefit most from reading the book? What will they learn?**

Brin Best offers training and workshops to teachers, school leaders and other professionals, and has presented his ideas in a similar fashion, much like a to a mini crash course, first explaining how to use the book. It is beneficial to both Primary and Secondary school teachers offering a variety of different methods for teaching and implementing accelerated learning strategies.

### **3. What did you think about the quality of the writing? Please consider the tone, structure and ideas. Does it suit the audience?**

Each chapter is structured in a way that's manageable and clear. The introduction revises how classrooms have changed since the Victorian era, then goes on to explaining what accelerated

learning is, why it is a necessary strategy to use in today's society with today's children, and how to implement it in schools. Best then goes on to the next chapter and explains the ways teachers can ensure their pupils are ready for learning. Before going into it, he explains the different brain states and the 'brain waves' that are best for learning which allows him to then go into further detail explaining factors that can hinder or enhance concentration.

Best maintains a good balance between bullet points and paragraphs, ensuring information is detailed and direct. Ideas are presented in a way that is well suited to the audience, written from a teaching perspective and applicable to all classrooms. The back of the book features a self-evaluation framework allowing the reader to fill in regular self-evaluation assessments for each chapter. I found this to be a very helpful tool as it acted almost as a guideline to follow and measure personal development along the way.

**4. Please discuss the research used to underpin the ideas. What evidence does the author use? Is it robust and up-to-date?**

Best conducts research on the different learning types and the best way to facilitate those in the classroom. The points he makes are based on scientific evidence on how the brain works and the ways people learn, as well as classroom data from the past until the present.

Using this information he assesses the most efficient methods for teaching, looking at those using the Accelerated Learning strategies already and the impact it has made to teaching and pupil progress.

**5. What did you learn from reading the book? What ideas/approaches/practice will you change or adopt as a result of reading this book?**

This book allowed me to really reflect on my own teaching and has encouraged me to adapt some of my own teaching methods. It has given me a few good ideas for lessons and has reinforced some of what I have learnt during professional studies workshops. Reading the book also brought many things to my attention that I had not considered whilst teaching such as seating arrangements and the ways the physical environment in the classroom can affect attainment.

**6. Could you share a quote from the book that particularly resonated with you?**

'If you cultivate an atmosphere where unhelpful behaviour is not seen as a part of your classroom, high standards of behaviour soon become expected'.

Brin Best (2003) pp.46

This quote resonates with me as behaviour management is something I am constantly working on and aiming to improve.

