



## **Millennial Students**

Millennials (young adults, teens, and children born from 1982-2002) have been so influenced by computers, cell phones, cable, music videos, video games, search engines, and instant everything that MRIs reveal physical changes in the way their brains work in comparison to ours.

Millennials are different, but they're not broken and trying to fix them isn't the answer. Although many adults are eagerly waiting, wishing Millennials would grow up and grow out of apparently irritating behaviors, they won't. Adults are probably the ones who will need to change. Understanding Millennials and making adjustments for them are appropriate. We enjoy helping people understand why changes are right and what to do to better work with Millennials and meet their unique learning needs.

At Celebrate Kids, Inc., we've always taught that teachers teach students, not math, science, or art. Never before, has this been more important. When teachers and parents understand their children, they can better teach and communicate with them. They'll know why old methods don't work as well and how to adjust them for greater success.

For instance, Millennials are used to instant access to what they need and want because of cell phones, texting, and email. They believe that everything they need to know is one mouse click away. If we don't keep things moving and make our lessons relevant to them, they'll move on in their minds to something they want to think about. Our "speed deficit" may cause them to appear to have an attention deficit.

Millennials have been raised with drop-down menus. They're used to choices and they're easily frustrated when they have no options and no freedom. They may struggle to make up their mind and stick to it. We must find meaningful ways to give Millennials choices and help them think things through when decisions must be made.

Decision making, especially when it applies to problem solving, is also challenging for Millennials because they believe things should come easily to them. After all, they figured out how to use their cell phone without reading directions. And they've learned to just fix things by hitting "control-alt-delete." With adult support, they can learn to apply themselves and persevere. We need to think about how we can respect their intuitive abilities and also help them apply themselves when tasks and skills don't come easily.

There are many more implications for teachers, parents, pastors, and employers. We enjoy teaching about them and look forward to working with you. For more information:

[www.CelebrateKids.com](http://www.CelebrateKids.com).