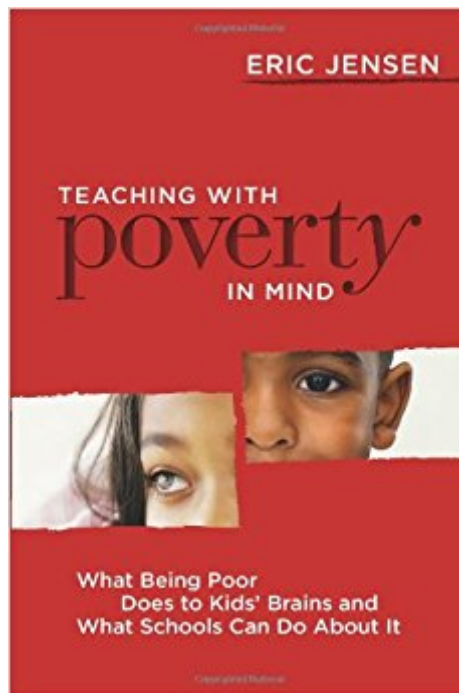


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# Teaching With Poverty In Mind: What Being Poor Does To Kids' Brains And What Schools Can Do About It



## Synopsis

In *Teaching with Poverty in Mind: What Being Poor Does to Kids' Brains and What Schools Can Do About It*, veteran educator and brain expert Eric Jensen takes an unflinching look at how poverty hurts children, families, and communities across the United States and demonstrates how schools can improve the academic achievement and life readiness of economically disadvantaged students. Jensen argues that although chronic exposure to poverty can result in detrimental changes to the brain, the brain's very ability to adapt from experience means that poor children can also experience emotional, social, and academic success. A brain that is susceptible to adverse environmental effects is equally susceptible to the positive effects of rich, balanced learning environments and caring relationships that build students' resilience, self-esteem, and character. Drawing from research, experience, and real school success stories, *Teaching with Poverty in Mind* reveals:

- \* What poverty is and how it affects students in school;
- \* What drives change both at the macro level (within schools and districts) and at the micro level (inside a student's brain);
- \* Effective strategies from those who have succeeded and ways to replicate those best practices at your own school;
- and \* How to engage the resources necessary to make change happen.

Too often, we talk about change while maintaining a culture of excuses. We can do better. Although no magic bullet can offset the grave challenges faced daily by disadvantaged children, this timely resource shines a spotlight on what matters most, providing an inspiring and practical guide for enriching the minds and lives of all your students.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eric Jensen did it again - provided a fully-researched topic that educators need so desperately. Not only is the research relevant for our struggling schools today, but the strategies and action steps in every chapter are easy to apply. Once applied, teachers can really make a difference in a poverty-stricken student's life. So many students in poverty and their teachers have given up - whether because of cognitive lags or behavioral issues - it doesn't need to be this way. Embracing the Mind-Set of Change (Chapter 3) is my favorite chapter and one that all educators should be required to read. We educators are in the business of changing brains for the better. Poor children can experience academic, social and emotional success daily! Thank you Eric for the incredible strategies that can be incorporated easily and inexpensively in the classroom and school-wide. In Chapter 4, Eric summarizes what high-poverty, high-achieving schools have in common. He synthesizes the most important strategies to give you the top 5 school-level factors that will make a difference. He does this same thing in Chapter 5 for the classroom. I love the SHARE Factors - brilliant! I am an educator, trainer of educators, and a mother of school-age twins. I work with poverty-stricken schools in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and some rural schools in Illinois and Texas. I'm passionate about this information, and I am extremely excited to share it with teachers and students around the nation. This book is not just for teachers who reach the low-SES students, but for all teachers who want to make a difference in their students' lives.

Brain research is somewhat new and fascinating. Eric Jenssen made it understandable for someone who has no interest nor aptitude in the sciences. As a person who grew up in poverty, I could relate to much of what he said. Because of this book, I am going to change the way I do some things in the classroom. I was running things in much too an authoritative style, but that's not surprising, considering I was brought up in an authoritative household. While the first couple of chapters are kind of depressing, because it tells of the deficits children of poverty will have, the hopeful parts come next. There are things we can do to help these kids be successful. I'm going to make a presentation to my principal about this book and I'm hoping we'll do a study on it. Too many of our staff members don't seem to know how to deal with these kids and tend to marginalize them. Times have changed and they can't continue to do this. I am going to be these children's advocate. I couldn't do that without this book. :)

As usual, Eric Jensen's book is incredibly thorough when it comes to describing the neuropsychology of students who grow up in generational poverty. It's so fascinating to hear our

these students' brains are literally rewired by poverty and it explains much about how difficult it is to encourage resilience and set high standards of achievement. NCLB tells us all students need to reach high standards, but this book finally showed me why it is so much harder for some students than others. Where Jensen's books fall short is what to DO about it. This book made me question some of my teaching practices, but did little to "fill the void" with better practices. It did give examples from other schools, but in these short vignettes, it was hard to tell what they really did that was different.

Nothing new in the research from the old Ruby Payne material. I was looking forward to practical applications for teachers.

I am reading this book as part of a project for the district I work in and just a few pages into it, I realized what a great book it was going to be. This author has a real handle on both students and schools that face the issue of poverty. He gives realistic and easy ways to be sure every group of children is receiving the very best education. If you are any educator of any age student, this book is for you. Even in the most affluent schools, there are students that are facing their own isolation. Don't miss out on an amazing resource.

"Until your school finds ways to address the social, emotional, and health-related challenges that your kids face every day, academic excellence is just a politically correct but highly unlikely goal." Eric Jensen Teaching with Poverty in Mind is perhaps the most important book I've read since I began teaching in a Title 1 middle school 11 years ago. Children reared in generational poverty have special needs. Eric Jensen identifies those needs, explains the science behind them, and offers practical strategies for addressing them. I appreciate the value of this book so much, I gave copies of it to my principal, assistant principal, and the school district's superintendent. I heartily recommend this book for any educator who serves the needs of Title 1 students.

A very well written and concise read of the issues students, parents, teachers and administrators need to consider when working with poverty related individuals. Good background referenced research about why poverty students are different than non-poverty students and includes good examples and advice on how teachers and schools can effectively modify their methods to best meet the needs of the poverty mind.

As veteran first grade teacher in an area that is transforming into a high poverty area I found this book informative and filled with practical information and strategies to apply in my classroom.

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