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# BRAIN POWER NEWS

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PARENT NEWSLETTER

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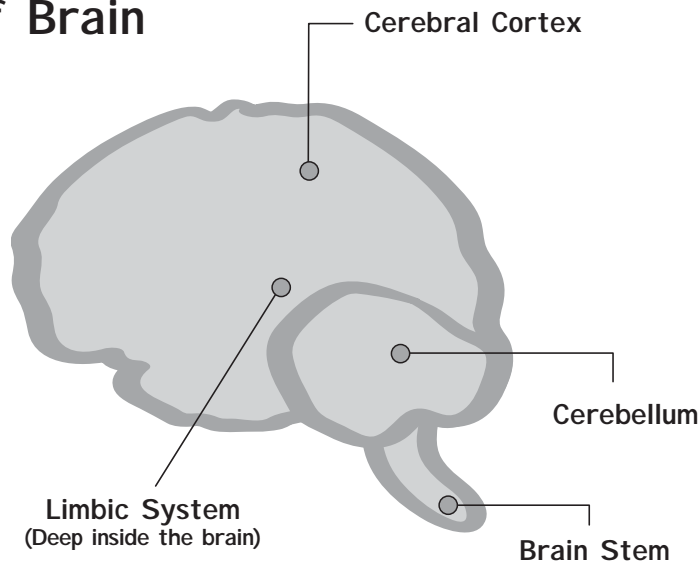
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## All About the Brain

During Module 3, students learned about the brain and all it can do. They discovered that not only does the brain help them think, but it also is responsible for just about everything else—regulating heartbeat and breathing, moving and playing, controlling emotions, and expressing themselves through words or pictures. Learning about all the essential functions of the brain sets the stage for teaching children about the importance of taking care of the brain and protecting it from harm.

Although students will not be learning the technical names of the different parts of the brain, these terms are provided here if your child is interested, or you would like to introduce him or her to these terms.

### Side View of Brain



Part of Brain	Function
Brain Stem	Sleeping, dreaming, coughing, sneezing, breathing, heart rate, digesting food
Limbic System	Learning new words, remembering names, crying, laughing, getting angry
Cerebral Cortex	Solving math problems, deciding on an ice cream flavor, talking, singing
Cerebellum	Sitting up straight, jumping, running, throwing a ball, dancing, walking



This module aligns with the standards “unifying concepts and processes” and “life science standards” from the National Science Education Standards. The activity helps students understand that the human body is a complex system. The brain is an integral part of this system.

## Science at Home

Keep a log of your daily activities at home on a typical day. Next to each activity, write which part or parts of the brain enable you to do everything you need to do. Discuss what an amazing organ the brain is.

## What Does Your Child Think?

Ask your child to draw a picture of the brain, and then have him or her fill the brain with pictures of all its numerous functions.

## Additional Resources

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NI DA) — [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov)  
301-443-1124

This Web site contains information about drug abuse and a section designed specifically for parents, teachers, and students. Publications and other materials are available free of charge.

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) — [www.health.org](http://www.health.org)  
1-800-729-6686

NCADI is the world's largest resource for information and materials concerning substance abuse. Many free publications are available here.

Neuroscience for Kids — <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html>

This Web site contains information on the brain, activities, experiments, pictures, and other resources for students and educators.

Rowan, P. *Big Head! A Book About Your Brain and Your Head*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998. This book gives an overview of the different parts of the brain and contains detailed color pictures and transparencies.

Treays, R. *Understanding Your Brain (Science for Beginners Series)*. Newton, MA: EDC Publications, 1996. This book describes the parts of the brain and their functions.

