

Smart Start: Leveraging Technology to Detect and Support Learning Differences Early

July 1, 2025



Moderator



Carla E. Small
Founder and CEO
Sprout Labs

Panelists



Nadine Gaab, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of
Education
Harvard Graduate School of
Education



Loui Lord Nelson
Founder
The UDL Approach



Ola Ozernov-Palchik, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor
Wheelock College of Education
& Human Development
Boston University

Panelists



Glenna Wright- Gallo
Vice President, Policy
Everway

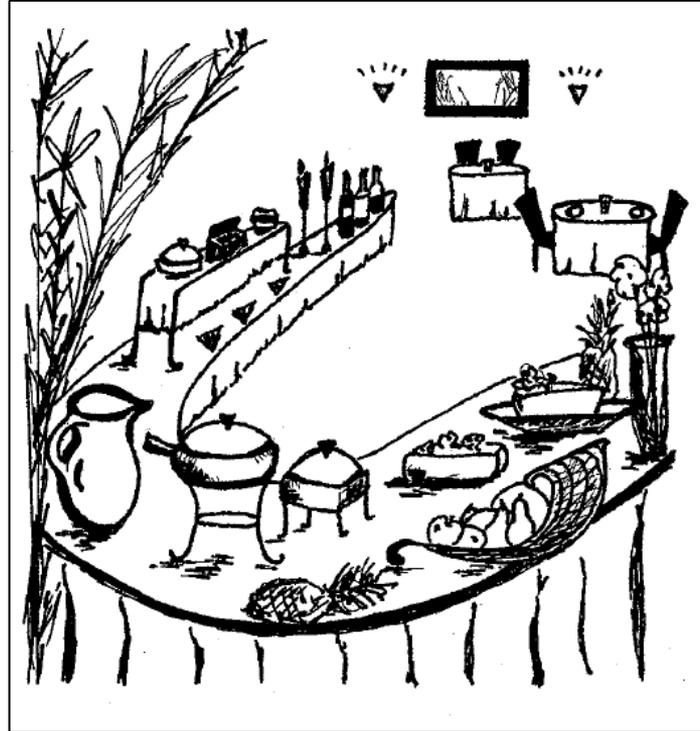


Tina Zampitella
Director of Curriculum &
Instruction
AIM Academy

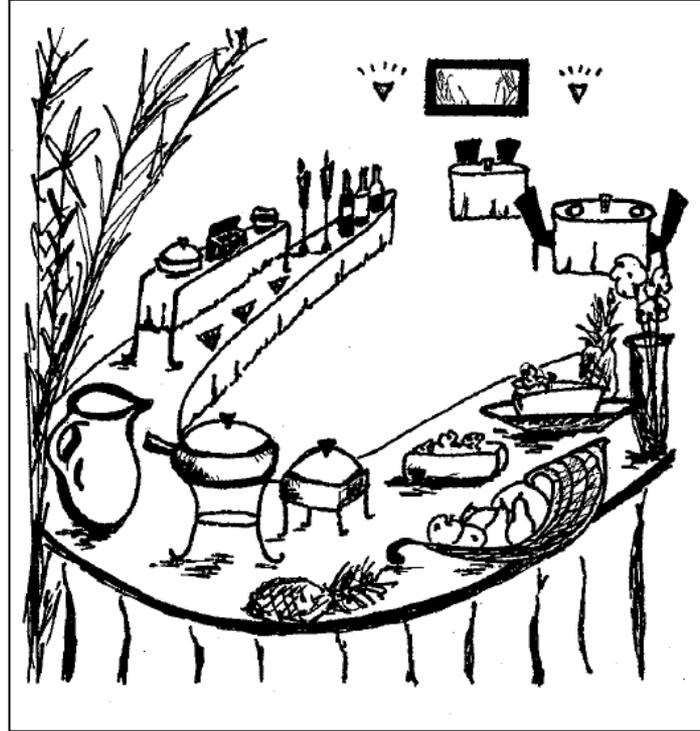
Universal Design for Learning



The recipient of the design

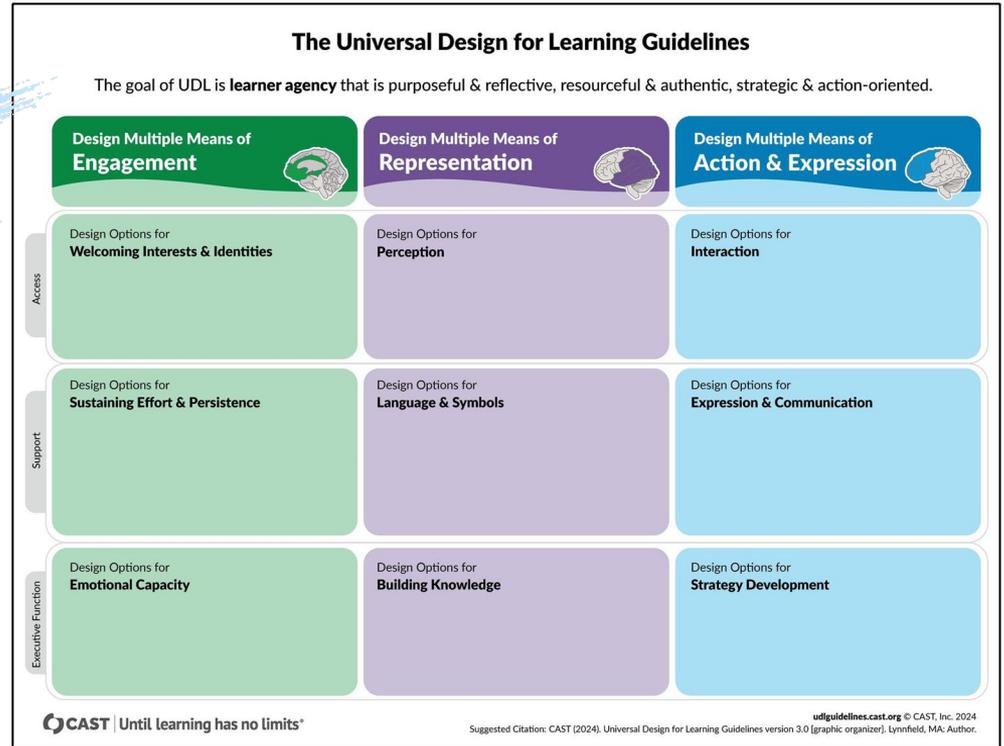


The Designer



UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Ideas and actions the designer can take to create learning experiences and environments that promote learner agency





137 Episodes

Home > Podcasts > UDL in 15 Minutes Table of Episodes

UDL In 15 Minutes Table of Episodes

Grade/subject	Guest and Topic in podcast	Episode number
The UDL Gears	Loui shares how UDL is more than the Guidelines. It includes skills, mindsets, and practices.	Special episode
Kindergarten	Laura Taylor – The influence UDL has even after 26 years of teaching	4
Kindergarten	Karlene Warns – Executive functioning	17
Kindergarten	Melanie Smith – Meeting social-emotional needs via academic content	82
Primary	Chynel McCrink and Colin Syron – Teachers from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland unite because of UDL	120
Primary	Chisomo Katunga – How UDL strategies changed her relationship with her learners	129
Primary; 1-2	Dalitso Ntambalika – Stories of UDL success in her Malawian classroom	128
K-6	Selena Andrade Gonzalez - Helping gen ed teachers learn about UDL and establishing behavioral norms during distance learning	52
K-6	Kelly Zombo – Being a UDL Coach. Part of the Fraser Public Schools series.	78
K-6	Zacham Kabantiok – How UDL is helping teachers lower the trauma of out-of-school children in Northeastern Nigeria	127
K-6	Kisa Laursen – Transform co-teaching with UDL insights	131
K-6 UDL Trainer	Jane Somanje – Transforming Malawi's classrooms with UDL for inclusive, effective learning	134
2nd grade	Jessie Sherman – Making arts integration even more accessible	3
2nd grade	Gina Marchionda-Schneider – A vocabulary lesson that wove in social-emotional support and was delivered via distance learning.	71
3rd grade	Jana Nicol – Designing the learning environment	10
3rd grade	Brandon Bean – “I’m a brain master!”: When students are fully empowered	100



UDL + AI = LUDIA



Make Universal Design for Learning Universally Accessible

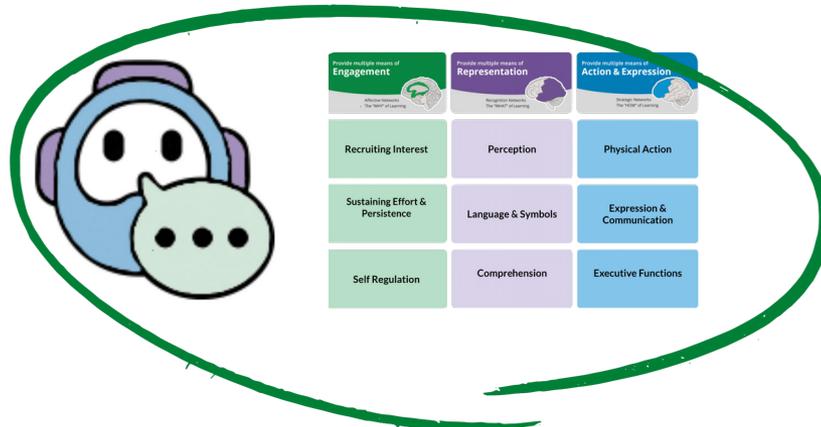


Amplify the Expertise of Educators

Reduce Barriers to Reducing Barriers



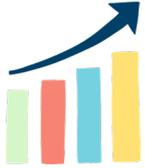
Beth Stark
UDL Consultant and Inclusionary Practices Strategist
for International Schools



Jérémie Rostan
High School Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator
International School of Panama



Reducing Barriers with LUDIA



Identifies
Barriers and
Goals



Reduces
Cognitive
Load



Offers
Ongoing
Context-Specific
Guidance



Accessing LUDIA through Multiple Means



Understands
and responds
in multiple
languages



Accessible
through touch or
voice typing



Poe is accessible
via Browser or
Free App

SCAN ME



<https://bit.ly/LUDIA>



CONNECT
WITH
LUDIA

Parents

- How can technology be used to provide my young child with multiple ways to engage with learning materials?
- What options are available to help my young child customize their learning experience using technology?
- How can assistive technologies enhance my young child's ability to communicate and express their understanding?
- What resources can help my young child develop skills in using technology effectively and responsibly?
- How can I ensure that the technology my young child uses is appropriate and effective for their learning needs?

teachers

- How can I use technology to create a more engaging learning experience for my young students?
- What types of assistive technologies can I incorporate to support children with to support attention?
- How can I ensure that the technology I use is accessible to all students, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities?
- What strategies can I implement to help students develop digital literacy skills from an early age?
- How can I effectively balance screen time with hands -on learning experiences in my classroom?

administrators

- How can we ensure that technology integration in our early childhood programs supports developmental milestones?
- What professional development opportunities should we provide for educators to effectively use technology in their classrooms?
- How can we evaluate the effectiveness of technology tools in enhancing learning outcomes for early childhood learners?
- What strategies can we implement to promote digital citizenship and responsible technology use among young learners?
- How can we create a technology -rich environment that fosters collaboration and interaction among young children?

LINKS

About UDL:

The UDL Guidelines: <https://udlguidelines.cast.org/>

“UDL is Like...” Using analogies to activate understanding <https://bit.ly/UDLisLike>

The UDL Gears: <https://theudlapproach.com/theudlgears/>

What is UDL: Seeing the full tapestry: <https://theudlapproach.com/tapestry/>

UDL Essentials: This goal of this LiveBinder is to provide all educators and school leaders with essential information about Universal Design for Learning <https://bit.ly/UDLEssentials>

UDL in action:

UDL in 15 Minutes: Where educators share their stories of UDL implementation:

<https://theudlapproach.com/podcasts/udl-in-15-minutes-table-of-episodes/>

About LUDIA:

LUDIA: Your UDL AI Partner www.bit.ly/LUDIA

LUDIA LiveBinder – All about LUDIA: <https://www.livebinders.com/b/3638700>

EZLUDIA: <https://bit.ly/EZLUDIA>

Questions & Discussion

TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED TEACHING & LEARNING

GLR
Learning
Tuesdays

AI Basics: From Definitions to Deployment

With InnovateEDU

Monday, June 24, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Smart Start: Leveraging Technology to Detect and Support Learning Differences Early

With Emily Hall Tremain Foundation

Tuesday, July 1, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Smart Tools, Stronger Partnerships: Technology for Home Learning and School Connection

With Promise Venture Studios and Springboard

Tuesday, July 8, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

From Skepticism to Enthusiasm:

AI & Emerging Technology's Role in Revolutionizing Teaching & Learning

With Digital Promise

Tuesday, July 15, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Digital Tools, Real Gains: Enhancing Early Grade Tutoring with Technology

Tuesday, July 22, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Register Now!



MEET THE MOMENT:
FOCUS On The Gap(s)!

GLR WEEK 2025 JUL 28-AUG 1

CGLR Hosted Sessions

Monday, July 28

- 12:30pm ET – **A Virtual Gratitude Reception — From A to Z: CGLR Salutes Aquariums and Zoos**
- 3pm ET – **Guardrails and Guidelines on Tech for Well-Being and Literacy Development**

Tuesday, July 29

- 12:30pm ET – **Starting Early to Boost Success: State Investments in Early Alignment & Accountability**
- 3pm ET – **Building the Workforce for Tutoring: Emerging Options & Strategies**

Wednesday, July 30

- 12:30pm ET – **Reducing Chronic Absence: Promising Signals From Colorado & Virginia**
- 3pm ET – **Disproportionate Impact Magnified: Rural America's Children and Families as Collateral Damage?**

Thursday, July 31

- 12:30pm ET – **From Struggling to Stability: Elevating the Prospects of ALICE Families**
- 3pm ET – **Homeschooling on the Rise: Parents Choosing, Parents Curating**

Learn More!





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