Some of the Most Important Things I’ve Learned
In Forty Years as a Neuropsychology Forensic Expert

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Knowledge is power.

Sir Francis Bacon

The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance - it is the illusion of knowledge.
Daniel J. Boorstein
Caution should be taken in jumping to readily onto the bandwagon of whatever happens to be the prevailing enthusiasm of the moment.

Sir Michael Rutter

The Future

The purpose of life is to prepare the next generation for their future.
Survival of the Species

- Salmon and snakes are born with sufficient instincts to survive.
- Bear cubs require at least one or two years with their mother to insure survival.
- Higher primates require three or four years.
- Humans require at least ten years.

My Grandparent’s Future

My Grandparent’s Future
After 40 years of working with people of all ages in litigation I’ve discovered the two most important variables in changing lives...

Instinctual Optimism & Intrinsic Motivation

Biology is not destiny but it does effect probability.
The mind doesn’t follow any rules of the physical universe.

There isn’t a predictable relationship between the physical brain and the mind.

Genes can only operate with a push from the environment.
There’s no quick method to evaluate and understand the human mind and behavior.

Try as we might, neuropsychology is an imprecise science.

It is imprecise because there are far too many unknown variables contributing to human behavior.
Just when you think you know everything you discover you know very little.

The simplest explanation is usually the best.

Belief is a valuable ally in the absence of fact but can quickly become a liability when used as foundation for opinion.
I am NOT an advocate. As a forensic expert I have to work everyday to keep my advocacy in check.

If you fail to take the time to educate others, your opinions may not be understood and never be heard.

Admit when I’m wrong or made a mistake.
Always begin with empathy.

Most people are doing the best they can, even in litigation.

I may not be able to change your physical brain very easily but with one idea I can change your mind dramatically instilling in you the power to do nearly anything possible.
Resilience (coping well with adversity) is a process of ordinary magic.