

## ACTG Mission Statement

To help children achieve their highest potential by understanding the development of the brain, and finding solutions and resources to support the development of the total child.

### Profile

A Chance To Grow (ACTG) is a nonprofit agency committed to the natural development of the whole child through innovative, individualized, and comprehensive brain-centered programs and services. It offers interventions that are educational, rehabilitative, and therapeutic in nature. Originally established to support children with learning disabilities and brain injuries, ACTG has evolved into a professionally staffed educational and health care organization that helps *all* children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, prepare to learn and reach their highest potential.

### History

- Bob and Kathy DeBoer founded A Chance To Grow in 1982 after creating an intense therapy designed to enhance the physiological and neurological development of Jesse, their brain-damaged daughter—the project was led by physical therapists Art Sandler and Sandy Brown, and later, Lyelle Palmer, PhD. (<http://www.actg.org>)



### **New Visions Academy**

- New Visions Academy, established by Bob and Kathy in 1992, is an independent charter school (not part of ACTG) that helps disadvantaged students develop learning readiness skills through a combination of three ACTG interventions: S.M.A.R.T., H.S.A.S., and Neurotechnology (<http://www.newvisionschool.com>)
  - **S.M.A.R.T.** (Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training): multi-sensory activities that stimulate the brain and enhance its ability, and capacity, to learn—compatible with any existing classroom curriculum
  - **H.S.A.S.** (Hemisphere Specific Auditory Stimulation): individually formatted CDs that improve children's auditory processing skills
  - **Neurotechnology** Audio Visual Entrainment (AVE) and Electroencephalographic (EEG) Neurofeedback help children with attention deficits ([http://www.actg.org/programs/auditory/auditory\\_main.htm](http://www.actg.org/programs/auditory/auditory_main.htm))



### **Minnesota Learning Resource Center**

- Minnesota Learning Resource Center, established in 1999 through state legislative funding, is the teacher-training institute of ACTG that hosts workshops of all three interventions and provides on-site mentoring across the state and nation (<http://www.themlrc.org>)
  - 3,000+ teachers nationwide have been trained in the S.M.A.R.T. curriculum
  - 60,000 children have benefited from S.M.A.R.T.
  - 110 Minnesota schools, and 153 national schools (across 12 other states), are Designated Learning Sites—meaning they have at least 4 trained teachers
  - 2/3 of S.M.A.R.T. kindergartners score above the national mean for reading readiness (according to the national Metropolitan Readiness Test 6, Level 2)