

LEFTY LEON'S FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

SPONSORED BY: Clique Success
WRITTEN BY: Roddy Camper



About the Author

My name is Roddy Camper Jr. I am a dominate lefty, meaning I am left handed, left legged, left eye and left ear. Most of the companies that I excelled at quickly recognized my creative abilities and let me run. However, with all the great successes, my passion was always with the desire to help left handed children.

I have been wanting to write this book for over 20 years now. Ever since those early years of elementary school where I had to catch baseballs bare handed (due to no left handed gloves), I knew there was something different about me. However, what really got me motivated was the constant teasing from my father. He thought it was funny that I (at 8 years old) could not start the lawn mover on the first pull like him. And, my handedness was always the first topic whenever we sat down for dinner in a restaurant (avoiding the elbow bump). Little did I know, this motivated me to recognize and help other lefties as I was growing up and getting older.

Even during both stints in college (1983 to 1987 and 2009 to 2011), every chance I had to write about left handedness I would take it and run. My teachers thought I was obsessed. Well, I guess I am! LOL Hope you enjoy the book and your lefty gains valuable knowledge moving forward.

(You might notice I don't use a hyphen between left and handed. Why, because I learned that it is my choice and I will be different any chance I get)

Dedications

I am dedicating this book to a few people who have helped keep my sanity somewhat in check and endured my constant rants about right handed products and more.

First, my Mom! She would always support me in any endeavor. And, she loved the idea of the book as she critiqued and edited it numerous times. She used to share stories about how the catholic school that she attended would smack her left hand every time she tried to use it. She eventually switched to right handed, however her creativity was still there in her paintings and her desire to help others. Unfortunately, she passed during the CoVid crisis in early 2021. I know she is proud of me and wants me to help clean up the stigma surrounding the left handed today. She is sorely missed.

Next, my wife Susan. She is also a lefty. We met in 1981 and quickly fell in love. Her family was drastically different than mine and some how we managed to survive both sides complaining about the other. She learned to adapt to all the right handed products early and thus it was not an issue with her. However she would get frustrated with me constantly pointing out right hand only products, or the lack of left handed products for sale and more. She still stayed by my side through ups and downs and we are still happily married today.

Lastly, my kids. Brieanna was born first, and if not for her vision challenges, Susan and I both feel she would be left handed. She helps me now with computer technology, pictures (she did the cover) and more. She is awesome! She motivated me by overcoming her visual challenge and doing what she loves to do. Daniel was born next, 8 years later. He is a lefty and helps me spot products that I have missed that are right handed only. We have a blast in the mall as we add new products all the time. He motivated me with his desire to build things instead of buying them. His creativity is amazing.

Lefty Leon

Goes to School

This story is intended to be an Educational guide for Parents and Teachers of left handed children (as well as family members and friends). Our goal is to help you recognize (see and feel through Leon) the real and unique challenges these children face, and ways WE (adults) can help these children reach their Full Potential.

Our story begins with Leon Hart (or any left handed child) who is just discovering that he is different than most of his friends and family. This "One Day" in the life of Leon will expose many of the challenges our left handed children have faced or will face soon. Many left handed children will NOT bring up these challenges to friends and family due to the feeling of isolation in our "Right Handed" World.

Parents: While you are reading this (HOPEFULLY with your left handed child), you might want to ask him or her, "Have you experienced this, that, those products"? I bet you will be surprised as to how many times they can relate to **Leon**.

Teachers: While you are reading this, please think about those few left handed children you do see and how you might NOW have an advantage to help them overcome some of these challenges.

Please share this story with any and all parents of left handed children you know. We want to help the children BUILD self-esteem through awareness, while they overcome these challenges and MORE.

Too many left handed children, roughly 50% learn to give up (*this happens when they reach puberty, entering Bandura's Theory of Observational Learning*) when dealing with right handed products and more.

Our goal is to slow or stop the "give-up" attitude through AWARENESS, and to show SUPPORT for their genetically selected hand preference (a seal of approval from GOD) so that all left handed children can REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL and MORE!

It's the morning of his first day in school

Leon is rubbing his eyes as he walks up to the breakfast table for some cereal before going to school.

Leon reaches over his cereal to start off with a drink of milk, then it happened! **SPLASH!** Milk goes everywhere! Leon's glass hit the cereal bowl as he was trying to get a drink.

His mom scrambles to clean up the mess as Leon apologizes over and over, **"Sorry Mom, I am really Sorry"**. In her haste, she replies, **"Why are you so clumsy (we lefties have heard this a few times over!), really, just before school?"**

Leon: **"I don't know why Mom. I'm sorry, really sorry"**.

Mom: **"Then stop and watch what you are doing"**. Mom continues, **"You might want to try using your other hand, it might help"**.

Leon: **"Okay mom, I will try"**.

Leon hurriedly eats his cereal and they head off to school for his very first day!



(Basic customary place setting with spoon to the right along with drink and napkin. Of course, not beneficial for our Left handed children.)

Excited again as he walks up to the giant school

Leon, remembering his manners, grasping the handle of the door to open it for his mom (with his left hand of course). He gives it a hefty pull to show mom that he is a strong man, then, "**OUCH**" says the surprised Leon as the door just rattles and refuses to open...it is locked!

Mom: *"Sorry Leon, that door is normally locked".*

Leon: *"Why?"*

Mom: *"Not exactly sure, probably because it is not used that much".*

Leon: *"Mommy, my arm hurts".*

Mom: *"I suggested it this morning Leon, try using the other hand. I don't want you to hurt yourself so please listen".*

Leon: *"Yes ma'am, I will try".*



(When businesses were surveyed, the #1 reason for locking the left door was, "my people forget to lock it at night, thus leaving the business open for theft".

WOW, glad we lefties are so high up on the priority list!)

Leon enters his homeroom class

Leon watches as his mom talks with the teacher for a few minutes.

Mom then approaches Leon and gives him a BIG hug and a kiss on the cheek and tells him she loves him and will be back when school is over to pick him up.

The teacher then guides Leon to his desk.



Leon, not familiar with this kind of chair/desk, tries to back in at first, then finally turns and slides in.

Leon: *"Whew that was tough."*

Teacher: *"What is that Leon?"*

Leon: *"Getting in this chair was tough."*

Teacher: *"You will get used to it. "*

The teacher announces that she wants everyone to get out paper and pencil so they can draw a picture of their family.

Now Leon is excited, he draws at home all the time and he is ready to show just how good he can draw!

Leon starts drawing, however, he can't get the paper to fit on the desk.

He calls for help.

Leon: "***Teacher, this desk is too small and it hurts my back when I draw***".

Teacher: "***It's because you are using the wrong hand, <she takes the pencil from his left hand and puts it into his right hand> how is that?***"

(This happens more than you think!).

Leon: "***Okay, but this feels weird and it hurts***".

Leon is confused

As the teacher walks away, Leon is thinking that this isn't right. He never had to draw with this hand at home. Frustration is NOW setting in and he wants to cry. Holding back his tears, he decides to change hands and endure the pain from the desk and draw it his way.

Just a few minutes later, the teacher announces, *"Okay children, now that you have drawn your family, it is time to cut them out. So, please pick up a pair of scissors from the box on my desk and cut out the picture of your family"*.

Leon is thinking, "whew, glad I switched hands so I could finish. Okay, scissors, never used them before".
Leon tries the scissors however difficulties continue...

Leon: *"Teacher, the paper keeps folding around the scissors, they don't cut!"*

Teacher: *"Leon, you are using the wrong hand again". "If you won't listen Leon, I can't help you"*

Leon is thinking, *"I can't cut with scissors"*. Back to SAD again.



The average school scissors. Notice the top blade angles down like the Blue Handled scissors below...



Red Handle scissors is the Left handed version.

Blue Handle scissors is the Right handed version.

(one pair can NOT be ambidexterious)

Do you see the difference?

Due to the natural curve inward when we close our hands to cut with scissors, Left handers using Right handed scissors will slowly push the blades apart, thus damaging the right handed scissors over time.

Time for LUNCH

Leon knows this should help him feel better!

Leon puts his school supplies away and grabs his ID card and money for lunch.

"Finally," he says to himself, ***"I can forget about those silly scissors and my back is feeling a bit better from that mean chair"***.

Leon stands in the lunch line and eventually gets his lunch tray. The nice lady puts the food on the tray, he shows her his ID card, pays her and is on his way to the lunch table with his class mates.

"Leon, come sit with us" he hears from a classmate. Now this helps him feel better.

Leon starts eating and within seconds, bumps elbows with his friend. ***"Sorry"***, Leon says.

This happened not just once, but 4 more times until his friend finally says, ***"Leon, quit it, you just made me spill my milk (friend is now angry with Leon)"***.

Left handed...



The "Elbow-bump!"

Right handed...

This is why Lefties are told to sit at the END of the table!

Leon goes to PE

Back to homeroom, he is then told that PE is next. Heading to PE, Leon thinks back on lunch and how he was upsetting the one person who invited him to sit. And, how he upset him by bumping his arm and making him spill his milk.

"How bad could PE be" he thought.

The teacher directs the class in some basic exercises then announces, *"We are going to play Baseball today"*. The teacher brings over a large bag with bats, balls and gloves. There were just enough gloves for 9 players. The teacher instructed the students to share the gloves when they switch sides.

Leon frantically searches for a glove that can fit his hand, unfortunately with no luck. He then goes and asked the teacher, *"Teacher, I don't see a glove for me?"* The teacher says, *"Just pick any glove, they all work the same"*.

Leon then states they don't fit his fingers. The teacher gives a frown and says, *"Well, I guess you will just have to sit out and watch until you can bring a glove...sorry Leon"*. Leon spends the rest of the class watching as sadness hits in waves (He keeps most of it inside).



Both soccer players, dominate Left legged

Side
note:

This is
just a
few in
the long
line of
famous
left
handed
players!

Leon heads back to Homeroom

The PE misery is finally over and it's time to head back to homeroom. Leon was thinking, *"Guess I need to ask for a baseball glove when I get home, that sounds like more fun...ugh"*.

Once everyone was seated in Homeroom, the Teacher announces, *"I want everyone to get out your pencils and write a short story about what you did this summer"*.

Leon thought, *"Great, I can share some of the fun things mom and dad and I did"*.

When time ended, Leon turned in his paper. The Teacher looked at his paper and frowned, then she said, *"What happened? Why is your paper so dirty?"*

Then she asked for his left hand...



Interesting fact:

Did you know there are only three mentions of left-handed people in the Bible.

The Hebrew Bible mentions left-handed people in:

- 1) The story of Ehud's assassination of the [Moabite](#) king (Judges 3:12–30)
- 2) The 700 Benjamites who could use the sling (with their left hand) with deadly accuracy (Judges 20:16)
- 3) The two-dozen ambidextrous warriors who came to support [David](#) in Hebron (1 Chronicles 12:2).

All of these stories of left-handed people in the Bible appear in military contexts, and, curiously, all involve members of the tribe of Benjamin.

Wrong handed and Marked

The Teacher said, *"See, you were punished for using the wrong hand, see the dirty marks! We will work on teaching you how to write the correct way tomorrow".*

She then instructed Leon to go to the bathroom and clean-up before going home. (Leon thought, *"She didn't want my parents mad at her for me coming home dirty".*)

As Leon walk to the bathroom, he wonder, *"Is there something wrong with me? Why am I having all these problems and no one else is?"*

Thoughts started popping in Leon's head; *"Maybe I'm sick?" "Maybe I don't belong here?" "Why I am wrong handed!"*

He then shook his head in frustration and said to himself, *"I am mostly okay. But why am I the only one in my class having these troubles?"*



Interesting fact for us older lefties as our pencils had real LEAD...

Lead poisoning? When it comes to poisonous materials, lead is one metal you don't want anywhere near you, let alone inside your body. Lead is a highly toxic material that can be fatal in large doses. Even small amounts of lead can have devastating effects that potentially last a lifetime, including organ damage. Lead can affect both the brain and other essential parts of the body. Just like mercury, you should immediately seek medical attention if you get into contact or ingest lead. Find out the effects of lead poisoning. (www.Health.Facty.com, mika, Dec. 7th, 2018)

10 Effects of Lead Poisoning from www.Health.Facty.com:

Anemia, Cardiovascular Disease, Decreased Cognitive ability, Delayed Development, Violent Crime, Miscarriage, Symptoms that develop slowly (Kidney damage & Gastrointestinal system), Hindered Concentration, Damaged Blood Cells, and Kidney Damage.

Time to Head Home

The school bell rings. Class is finally over.

Leon is thinking to himself: ***"Finally, I will get outside quickly so I don't mess up anything else. I hope mommy is here!"***

(Tears start to flow again)

waiting...

waiting...

Leon starts thinking again, ***"Did she forget about me? Is it because I am different? Why do I use my left hand???"***

waiting...

waiting...

Finally, Leon bursts, ***"THERE SHE IS!!! And, SHE sees ME!!! Ahhh, mom is here to save me."***

Mom is smiling and waving back at Leon. He thinks to himself, ***"I love to see mommy smile!"***

Interesting challenge:

Here is a fun test to show the differences of the right and left hemisphere of your brain at work! Our Brains are cross-wired, meaning, the left hand processes through the right hemisphere while the right hand processes through the left hemisphere. Same for many other senses including the eyes (which also transmit to your brain upside down).

Look at the chart and say the COLOR not the word

YELLOW	BLUE	ORANGE
BLACK	RED	GREEN
PURPLE	YELLOW	RED
ORANGE	GREEN	BLACK
BLUE	RED	PURPLE
GREEN	BLUE	ORANGE

Left – Right Conflict

Your right brain tries to say the color but your left brain insists on reading the word.

Question for Mom

Leon opened the car door, "*Hi Honey, how was your day sweetheart?*" Mom says, as she pulls me in for a hug and a kiss! (If she only knew how much this hurts sometimes)

Without a chance to answer her, she buckles me up and we are on our way home.

Leon thinks for a minute longer before answering her question...

Just before Leon answers, Mommy says, "*Is everything okay, what is wrong sweetheart?*"

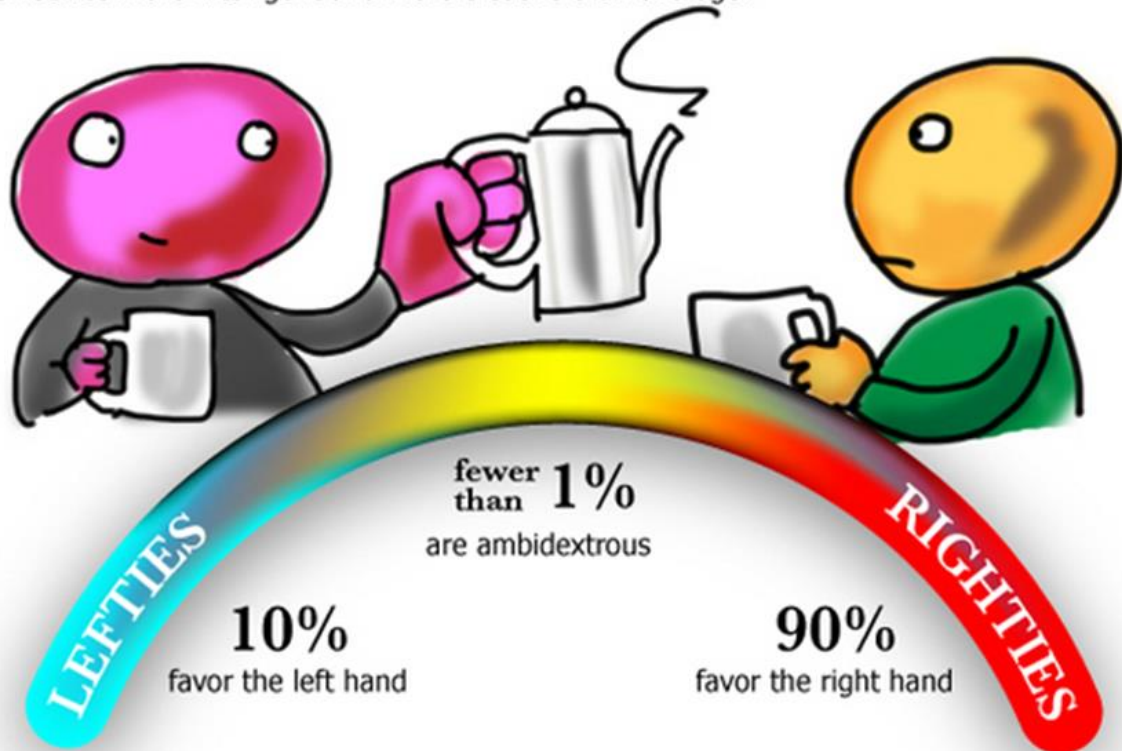
Leon blurts out, "*Mommy, I think there is something wrong with me?*" (Now I can't stop crying!)

Mom is shocked!

She says, "*Honey, you are a PERFECT child, nothing is wrong with you!*" "*Who said that?*" "*We will turn around right now and straighten them out!!!*" Mom is now getting really, REALLY MAD!

Right-Handed or Left?

Left-handed people often find it challenging to live in a world meant for right-handers. A survey by Lefthandersday.com found that 85 percent of lefties considered themselves more awkward or clumsy than average. A majority of left-handers also considered themselves more intelligent and more creative than average.



Numbers do not add up to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: DAVID P. CAREY, BANGOR UNIVERSITY; LEFTHANDERSDAY.COM

KARL TATE / © LiveScience.com

(The left handed population is growing. More people are learning that it is OKAY for their child to be left handed so they are not switching them to right handed as often as in the past. Plus, switching comes with complications.)

Mommy Explodes

Leon tells his Mom what the teacher said about his hand getting dirty, baseball glove and all the other stuff.

Then Leon tells her in an upbeat tone, "*but mommy, she said she would fix me tomorrow*".

(This is when Mom blew her top!)



Mom calms down a little as we pull up to our house.

Mom reassures me that she will talk with my TEACHERS, "**yes ALL of THEM!**"

(Calm is leaving her body again and psycho-mom is starting to take over AGAIN!)

She is now stamping her feet as she storms in the house!

A few minutes later she returns calm with a grin, and says, "**It's time for a talk with your Dad!**"

Leon thinks: "Gulp...was I in trouble? Uh Oh, now its Dads turn to blow up!"

"**Yes ma'am**", Leon says, as he slowly walks to see Dad.

The "TALK" with Dad

Leon knocks on Dads door, *"Dad, mom told me to come and see you before bed time"*.

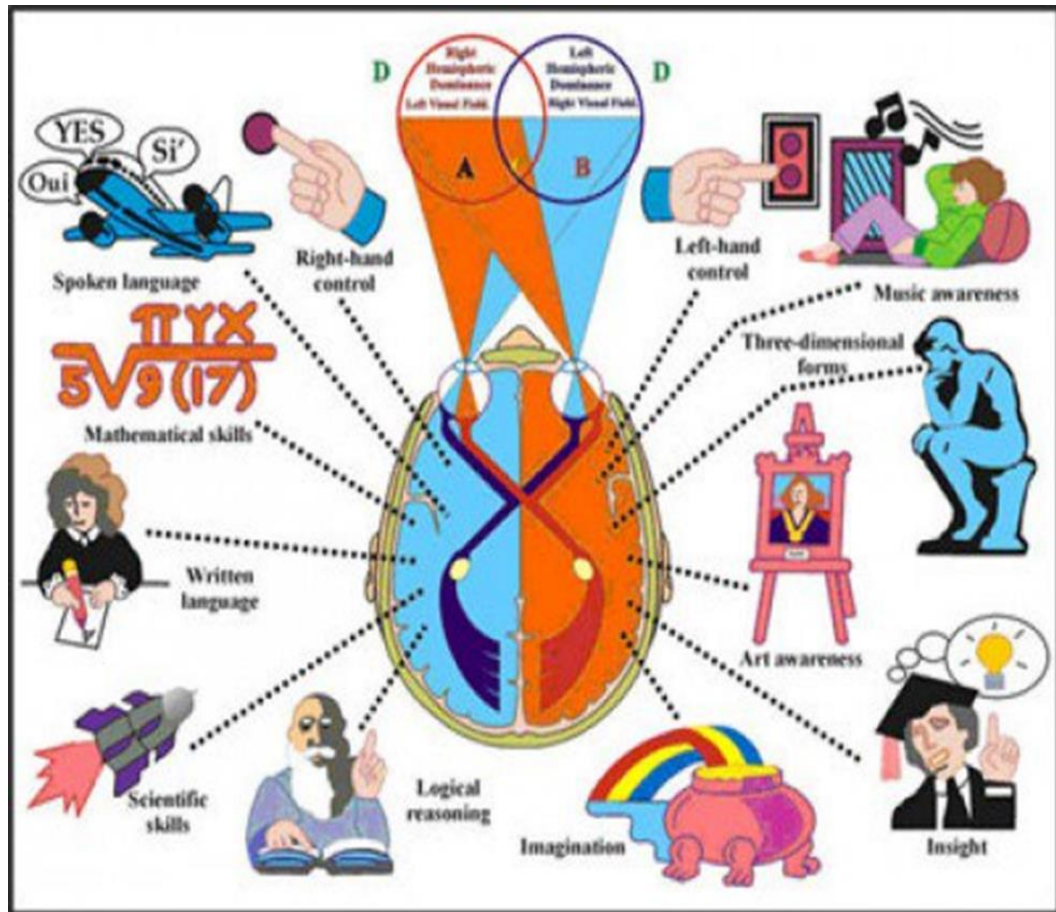
"Yes son, come in" he says, *"have a seat, mom has briefed me on your questions"*.

Dad says, *"Son, FIRST of all, there is nothing wrong with You! Actually, there is something very special and unique about you that you don't yet understand"*.

"See son," dad says, *"for starters, YOU and I are BOTH left handed!"*

"WOW" Leon thought, this "talk" is getting better by the second! Dad proceeded to tell Leon all the GOOD things about being left handed and all the other famous people that they share this uniqueness with.

"And", Dad said, *"I had to remind your mother of all the challenges I had as a kid. She gets it now"*.



Dad explained all the neat functions of the right side of the brain along with the left.

He also explained how being left handed just means we cross over to the right hemisphere a little more often than a right hander.

If we were also left eye'd and left leg'd, we would cross over even more.

Time for Bed

After dinner, Dad gets up and gives Leon a hug and says, "***you are a left hander, be proud of it as I am***".

Dad continues, "***There are numerous challenges to being left handed and you will overcome them as I did***". "***I have confidence in you!***" "***And I love you very much.***"

Dad then walks Leon to bed.

Mom is right behind them. She jumps in the room and pulls down the bed sheets and tucks Leon in for the night.

As she leans in for a kiss and a pat on Leon's head, she says, "***We will explain to all your teachers tomorrow and you will be the smartest student in class, you'll see***".

Still leaning over, she gives Leon a hug and kiss and says, "***I love you very much, sweet dreams honey***".

She stops at the door, turns and says, "***Also, please remind me in the morning to place your milk on your left side. I understand now!***"

Reflection Time

Parting thoughts in Leon's head as he dozes off...

"Dad said I was part of something unique and special."

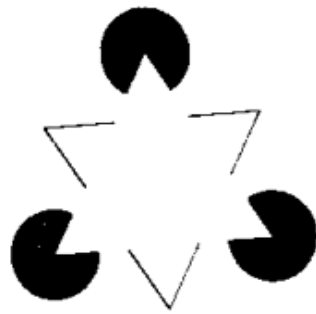
"I just have to learn what is right handed only and then learn how to overcome the difference."

"Mom said she would go with me to school and make it all better. I believe her."

"I believe tomorrow will be a better day!"



**Pictures to ponder as you wonder
if you have any Right Brain attributes.**



Right Brainers will
see the Triangle in
the middle first!



Right Brainers will
see both women
fairly quickly.



Right Brainers will
see the faces first!



Right brainers will
see both almost
instantly.

One more reminder: Left Handers Day
is August 13th



One last question for the adults

“Do you know HOW to help a left handed child?

If you could use a few pointers, just
visit: www.leftyrightclub.org

What you will find on this site is a real list of famous left handers with more being added as handedness can be confirmed, numerous articles from scholarly sources regarding left handedness and pictures of those right handed products that we deal with being left handed.

Or if you would like a more personalized reply, send me note from the site or if you want, send me a personal email at rcamper42@gmail.com. I would love to help your child or whoever needs to understand more of the challenges left hander's face in today's society.

If you would like me to attend your school, let me know. Maybe we can get all the left handed kids together for a pep-talk along with the Teachers!

IE: This story is fictional, however left handed children suffer these challenges every day. Myself being one of them back in the day. Thus, my passion for sharing my knowledge in hopes that we can get our left handed population up to 25% where the gene, LRRTM1 says we should be.

Please remember: Left handed is not a disease

Left handed is another uniqueness that is in each one of us as we learn to be the best we can be with what we have. Our bodies are so cross-wired that to say one is better than the other is just WRONG!

What we can say is that one side needs the other side to live in balance and harmony. Right now, roughly 90% of the population think similarly, what would our potential as a country be if there were more Right Brain thinkers in the world to bring better balance?

Please share with any and all left handed children you know. The purpose behind this story is to help left handed children acknowledge the challenges they face in a right handed world and to help build their self-esteem that should have never been reduced in the first place.

Too many left handed children learn to give up or get mad when dealing with so many right handed products. Thus, our goal is to give them knowledge and show support so they can REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL!

Sponsored by: Clique Success Inc.,

"No One of US is More Important than ALL of US"

Last interesting fact: The Brain is still 95% unexplored. Scientist have discovered over 100 new areas of the brain along with 85 billion neurons and over 100 trillion synaptic connections. They are just now learning that dominant Lefties (left hand, left leg and left eye) are tapping into the right hemisphere more often than right handers. So, be proactive with your children as this is the first century to allow left handedness without negative consequences.