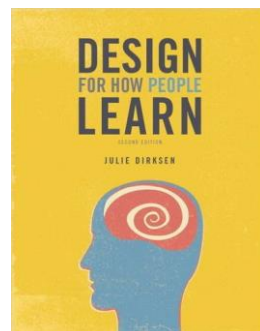# Design for How People Learn

By Laura Hughes

You may not be a learning nerd like me, but Design for How People Learn (2nd ed.) by Julie Dirksen will grab your attention the minute you open the book. Who knew reading about learning design could be a page-turner? Through the use of stick figures, graphics, metaphors, and stories, Dirksen turns this sometimes dull subject into…dare I say it…fun. Most importantly, you walk away with concrete strategies to enhance your skills as a trainer, your workshops, and the learner's ability to gain new knowledge and skill.

What's Inside

After a workshop, would you rather hear someone say:

- That was a nice day out of the office. I wonder what I'm going to make for dinner.

  or

- I can't wait to try these two things I learned today! I'm going to talk to my supervisor about this next week.

Hopefully, you chose the latter. (If not, that's a different book.) Admittedly, there are many factors that can influence how someone engages in a workshop, but Dirksen offers tips and tricks to design a learning experience to have the greatest impact on learners. To give learners the best chance to walk away from our trainings with new knowledge and skill, we must pay attention to how we present and develop our workshops.

Over the course of nine chapters, Dirksen walks through the process of designing an effective learning experience. Check out the Table of Contents to see how it's done. If you need a little more convincing, read a free sample chapter: Chapter 8: Design for Motivation.

I would recommend this book for any learning professional. By the end you may be joining me in the learning nerd club.

Keep learning! Add Julie Dirksen's website, Useable Learning, to your favorites, and subscribe to her blog.

For those who have read or do read this book, let me know what you think! What stood out to you? What did you learn? I'd love to hear if you found this book helpful and what you're going to incorporate into your practice. Email me, Laura Hughes, at lhughes@ihs-trainet.com. Happy reading!