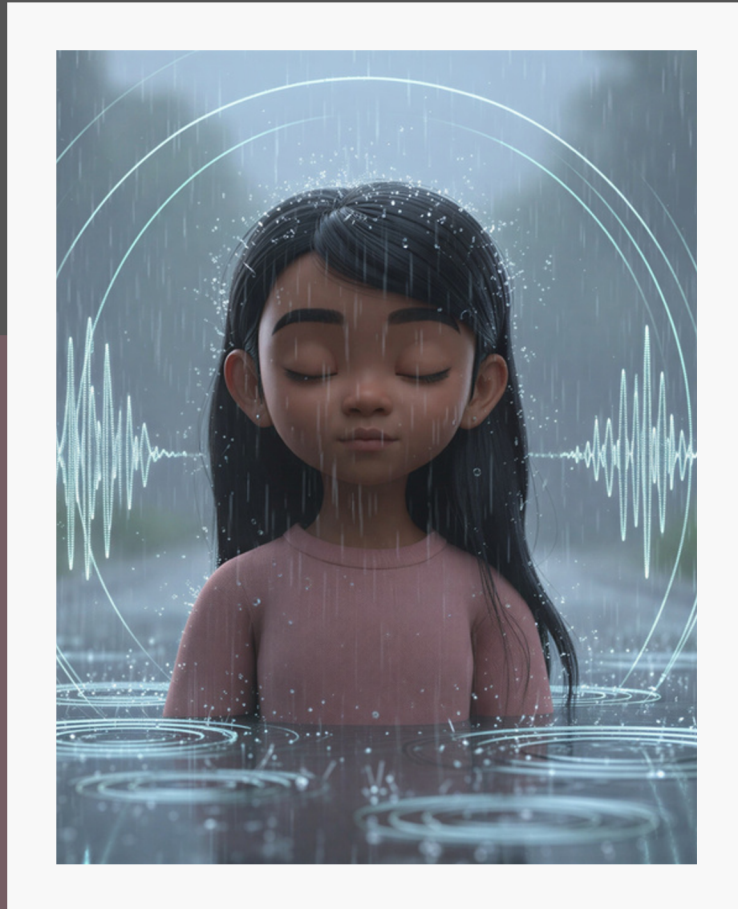


NG NEXTGEN
LEARNERS

Presents:



THINK LIKE A BRAIN!TM

Tammy Temporal and the Soundy Sound Storm

Hearing, language, music & memory

FREE SAMPLER

For: Parents, Educators, & Co-Regulators

Presented by NGL Press
NextGen Learners LLC
Written By Maisel McLaula



THIS BOOK IS ONE PIECE OF A BIGGER SYSTEM.

Tammy Temporal is part of Think Like a Brain!™

— a structured developmental pathway that walks children (and the adults who love them) through the brain from the bottom up. Each character is a different brain region, and each book is a different layer of how humans regulate, remember, perceive, connect, and grow.

You're not meant to piece this together on your own. The pathway is designed to build in order.

The developmental arc, from the ground up:

Benny the Brainstem — the foundation. Survival, regulation, the automatic body. Start here.

Bella the Cerebellum — balance, movement, rhythm, coordination.

Amy the Amygdala — the alarm system. Big feelings, fear, protection.

Hippocampus Hal — memory, meaning, and the story of "me."

Olly the Occipital Owl — sight, images, imagination, pattern.

Tammy Temporal — sound, language, and the music of a life.

Perry the Parietal — body maps, touch, space, and belonging.

Luna Lefty & Roger Righty — the two hemispheres, logic and art, list-making and daydreaming.

Callie the Connector — the bridge that lets all of it talk. Integration. Whole-brain thinking.

Each book stands on its own. Together, they form a bottom-up, trauma-informed, neurodevelopmentally-sequenced map of the human brain — written for children who are building themselves, and the grown-ups who are building alongside them.

Why the order matters. A child cannot listen their way to calm if the body beneath the ears is still braced for threat.

The Think Like a Brain!™ pathway follows the same sequence real children use to grow: regulation first, then relationship, then reasoning. Tammy's quiet listening only becomes possible once the lower layers feel safe enough to let sound in gently.

Tammy's place on the pathway. Tammy sits in the sensory middle of the arc — above Benny, Bella, Amy, Hal, and Olly, and just beneath the parietal and hemispheric layers. Sound is the sense that reaches a child before words do: a heartbeat before birth, a lullaby before language, a tone of voice before a sentence. That's why Tammy comes after the alarm system (Amy) has learned the room is safe and memory (Hal) has started to hold familiar voices — and why she comes before Perry maps the body in space and Luna and Roger divide up the thinking work. A child who meets Tammy in order learns that listening is not a performance; it's a gentle, protected sense that their brain has been caring for all along.

Disclaimer

A gentle note. The Think Like a Brain!™ series is an educational and emotional literacy companion, not a replacement for medical, psychological, or therapeutic care. These books are grounded in developmental neuroscience and trauma-informed frameworks but are not diagnostic tools, treatment plans, or clinical interventions. If a child in your care is struggling with regulation, mental health, trauma, sensory processing, or development, please reach out to a qualified pediatrician, therapist, occupational therapist, or school counselor. The grown-ups who love a child are always the first and best line of support — and the grown-ups who get trained help are the ones who keep getting stronger at it. Trust yourself. Trust your team. Trust the pathway.

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A QUIET NOTE FROM Maisel McLaula

These free pages are a small taste of something much bigger. Think Like a Brain!™ began as a love letter – to the children I’ve held, taught, and grown alongside, and to the grown-ups who stay up late worrying whether they’re getting it right. Every character, every printable, every breath script, every line of read-aloud guidance was built by hand, tested with real kids, and poured full of the thing I wish every child had: someone who believed their brain was not broken, just building.

Two ways to walk the full pathway:

The books.

Each Think Like a Brain!™ title is a complete story with its own resource pages in the back – read-aloud prompts, age-by-age questions, regulation tools, and the science behind the character, all tucked into the final pages. The books alone are enough. They’re available wherever books are sold

The Activity Packs (like this one).

These 24-page learning expansion packs are a deeper, classroom-and-clinic-ready companion to each book – role-play scripts, sorting mats, body-scan scripts, neurodivergent-affirming adaptations, parent and educator notes, and printables built to be hung, folded, and loved. The Activity Packs are exclusive to online customers at NextGenLearners.com and are not available anywhere else right now.

If this sampler was useful to a child you love, the full **Tammy** Activity Pack is \$3 at NextGenLearners.com – and every pack you purchase keeps this small, independent press making more.



With so much love, Maisel McLaula NGL Publishing · NextGenLearners.com



CHARACTER CARD

About Tammy

Tammy Temporal is the listening heart of the Brainy Bunch. She lives in the temporal lobes – the parts of the brain tucked behind each ear that handle hearing, language, music, and memory. Every voice, every song, every tiny whisper, every name a child learns to recognize passes through Tammy’s careful listening.

Tammy’s personality is calm, thoughtful, and patient. She wears soft hearing devices and moves slowly, because hearing the world well takes attention. She doesn’t shout over noise – she invites it to quiet down. She’s the book every child who feels overwhelmed by sound, who struggles with loud classrooms, who misses words, or who loves music deeply needs to meet – because she shows them their ears and brain are gentle teammates, not broken machines.

TAMMY'S



READ-ALLOUD GUIDE

Before reading: Close your eyes for ten seconds. Tell the child, “Let’s listen to everything we can hear right now – and then let’s find out who is doing that listening inside your head.”

During reading: Pause after Tammy’s first storm. Ask: What sounds are too loud for you? What sounds do you love? Let them list. Don’t correct – collect.

After reading: “Tammy is listening right now. She heard every word of this story. She’ll hear you singing in the bath tonight and humming yourself to sleep.” Then a long, slow hum together.



Tammy's Quote of the Day

When the world is too loud, turn down the light, just hum and breathe, you'll start to feel right.



Tammy's Promise

Every child who meets Tammy gets the same gift: the knowledge that their ears are not their enemy, their need for quiet is not a failure, and somewhere inside them, a gentle, steady listener has never once stopped noticing.

They were never alone in the noise.

Tammy's Listening Place

Color in the place where Tammy does her quiet work.



What sounds do you hear when the world gets loud?

THANK YOU



WRITE TO US:

Inspire@NextGenLearners.com – suggest a future book topic. Tell us what story a child in your life is waiting for.

Press@NextGenLearners.com – for authors and creators who'd like to publish their own books with NGL.

Info@NextGenLearners.com – general questions about other collections, products, or the NextGen Learners ecosystem.

Create@NextGenLearners.com – send us your reviews, kid art, drawings, and creations inspired by the books. This is the “show us what you made“ mailbox, and it is our favorite one to open.

MaiselMcLaula@NextGenLearners.com – write directly to the author. Maisel reads every message.

STAY CONNECTED

Visit the Learning Realm at NextGenLearners.com – free printables, book news, and the full *Think Like a Brain!*™ collection live there. Sign up for the newsletter while you're there for new resources, release dates, and the occasional gentle reminder that your brain is doing just fine.

A NOTE FROM MAISEL

Thank you.

For choosing Tammy. For sitting beside a child while they learned that their gentle, faithful temporal lobe has been listening for them all along. For reading slowly. For pausing when they asked questions. For trusting that stories can carry real science into a child's heart.

NGL Publishing is grateful for you.

Share the Love

If Tammy helped a child you love, tell a friend, a teacher, a therapist. Word of mouth is how small presses grow big hearts. And if you'd like to leave a review – it truly does make all the difference.

– With gratitude,

Maisel McLaula