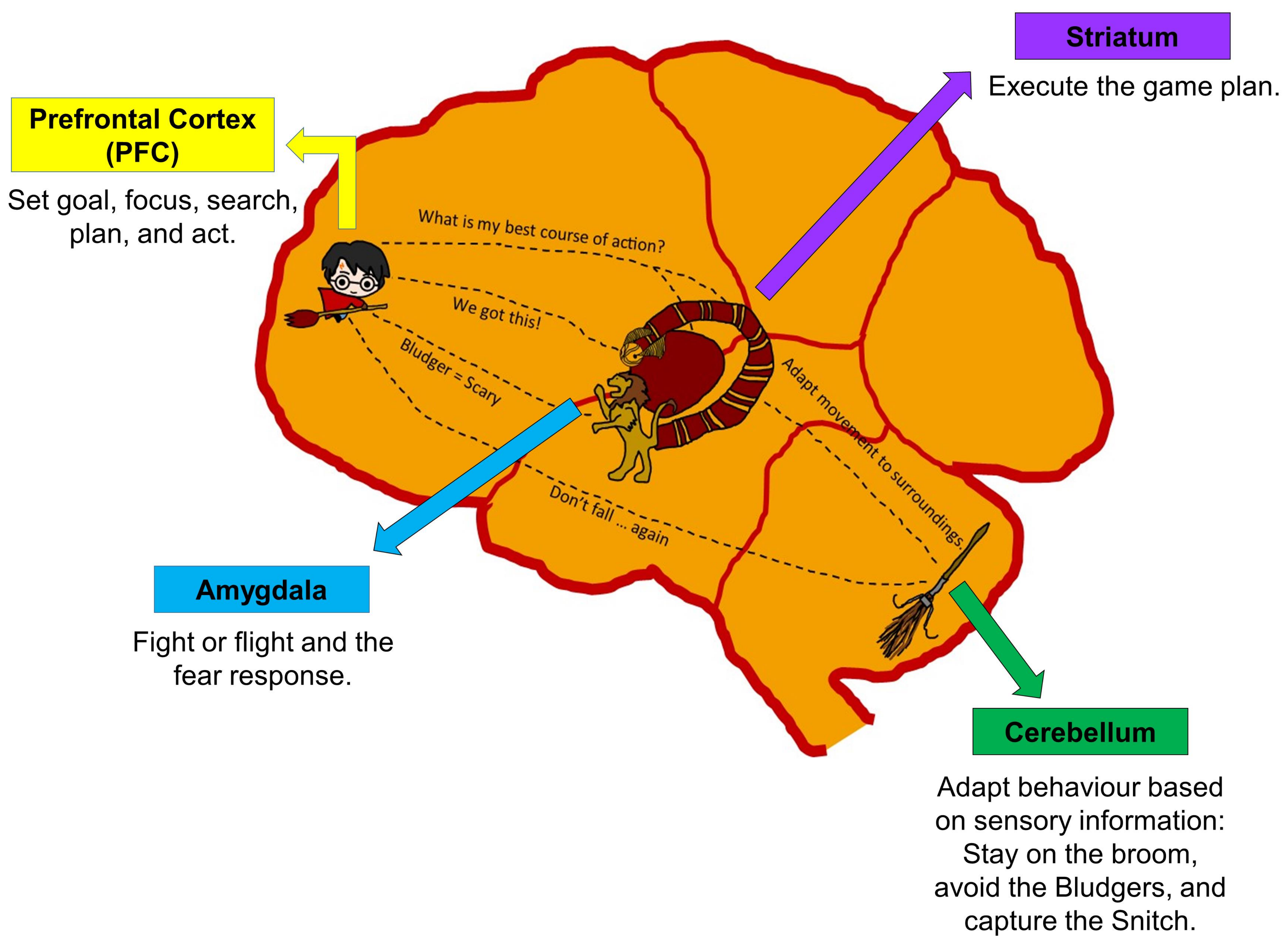


# Science for All Ages: What Quidditch can Teach us about Prefrontal Cortex, the Striatum, and the Cerebellum

Ava Hughes, Ishmam Bhuiyan, & Daphne S. Ling  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Science education has to start from a young age and continue throughout the lifespan. Here, we demonstrate how learning from early childhood can be made fun through the use of daily activities enjoyed by children, such as reading and playing, and how these activities can be further built upon by educators in classrooms. These activities can help to improve both the retention of knowledge and motivation to learn.

## What Can a Story Book Teach us about Science?



To illustrate this, we have chosen J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series and the game of Quidditch. Quidditch is a (fictional) 7-player game played on flying broomsticks where the goal is to score goals, avoid being bludgeoned by rogue flying balls, and to find a flying walnut-sized ball called the Golden Snitch; Harry's job is to capture that elusive Snitch. This approach uses visual representations to depict how different regions in the brain (PFC, amygdala, cerebellum, and striatum) work together to produce complex functions (e.g., playing Quidditch!).