

An Explorative Study: Awareness and Understanding of Dyspraxia amongst Parents of Preschool Children Presenting with Dyspraxia

Authors : A. Pedro, T. Goldschmidt

Abstract : Dyspraxia affects approximately 5-6% of school aged children. Utilising an ecological framework, this study aimed to (1) explore the awareness and understanding of dyspraxia or similar disorders among preschool parents and (2) to explore what skills are required or sought after by parents of children presenting with dyspraxia. A qualitative methodological approach with an exploratory design was employed in this study. A total of 15 parents were purposively selected from urban mainstream preschools in the Cape Town metropole region. Data were collected by means of semi-structured interviews and analysed thematically according to Braun and Clarke (2006). Participants were knowledgeable of their rights throughout the research process. The findings reveal that parents understanding of dyspraxia hinges on observable characteristics of their children's abilities in comparison to typically developing children. Although parents are aware of ways to explore various avenues to better assist their child, they desire more social support and skills in terms of resources to inform them about their child's difficulties as well as different techniques to better manage their child's condition. Findings indicate that regular contact between preschool teachers and parents of children presenting with dyspraxia is an important factor in children's academic success. The implications of the findings are related to the awareness of dyspraxia and similar learning disorders among both parents and teachers.

Keywords : awareness and understanding, dyspraxia, parents, preschool

Conference Title : ICESPLCT 2019 : International Conference on Educational System Planning and Classroom Techniques

Conference Location : Singapore, Singapore

Conference Dates : July 04-05, 2019