

Teacher Knowledge of Dyslexia: One Potential Cause of the Poor Academic Achievement of Children with Learning Disabilities

Myths about dyslexia, the most common type of learning disability, are pervasive in the education community and may be one cause of persistent academic failure of students with learning disabilities. Dyslexia is a language-based disorder that causes difficulty learning to read words and thus comprehend text. Early intervention, accurate identification, and explicit, systematic phonics instruction can prevent or minimize the effects. Coordinated advocacy by parents, educators, and politicians has led to a significant increase in dyslexia-related legislation. This study seeks to examine the degree to which certified teachers who teach in Florida public schools understand myths associate with dyslexia. Participants will take a survey of teacher knowledge of dyslexia. The survey contains questions about the cause and characteristics, assessment and intervention, and education policy. Results will be used to inform professional development, teacher preparation, and policy.