

Dictionary of special education terms

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(book review)

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Currently, the orientation and understanding of terminology within the different specialized educational fields is on the front burner due to the interdisciplinary overlap in special education. This publication is processed as a professional text to approach this discipline to students, experts of related fields, the general public and the others interested in. It also acquaints us with the knowledge of special education theory and practice in our country and brings current foreign experiences, too.

This publication is divided into 10 chapters according to individual fields of special education. Chapters are related to the terminology of special education of persons with a visual impairment, speech impairment, people with hearing disabilities, with limited mobility, with mental disabilities, psychosocial hazard and disruption and the terminology of specific learning disabilities.

Specialized text is enriched by a chapter regarding key concepts in the education of children, pupils and students, thereby it follows the current world trends. The opening chapter is composed by general special educational terminology and last chapter is focused on the terminology of therapies in special education, which fully covers the demand connection of theory and practice. The content of the book is supplemented by the list of passwords for quick and effective orientation in professional texts and even without the knowledge of the special education in which the password belongs to.

Each chapter is handled by another author which is aimed to this issue and supplemented by the list of literature which references to particular key terms of each chapter. Given passwords are ordered alphabetically and completed by terminological equivalents in English and Latin language which is considered as very helpful because it is useful for following work with Internet resources nowadays.

The book is written by 10 authors who have provided us with well arranged and sufficiently saturated information based on current trends and special education

needs. Individual chapters are handled by qualified professionals engaging in selected fields. Each chapter contains general and specific information such as anatomical passwords, best known syndromes, categorization within some passwords interpretation, explanation of known abbreviations, names of famous therapies, concepts and methods, the contents of the most famous tests and scales used in practice as well as organizations and associations respectively a list of services in the given field of special education.

The first chapter is devoted to general concepts and some parts of it is dedicated to frequently mentioned the International Classification of Diseases, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and major organizations - such as the Disabled People's International, the European Disability Forum or associations such as the Czech National Disability Council including their abbreviated content.

The second chapter includes terms related to the care for people with visual impairment and there are also mentions of occlusive therapy, pleoptic and orthoptic therapy, the instruments and techniques used in this field. There is also an outline of the organization such as Tyfloservis and Tyflocentrum, their content and differences in the providing of social rehabilitation service.

The third chapter is concerned with terminology of communicative disability which is enriched with a description of the formation within individual consonants. There is also mention of the tests used in clinical speech therapy practice, next mention is for example of discussed therapy Chirophonetics that doesn't have many supporters in the Czech Republic. There are also mention of instrumental methods like electropalatography, videofluoroscopy or visible speech.

The chapter four includes key concepts for people with hearing impairments and explains the concepts related to clinical examinations such as BERA (Brainstem electric response audiometers), CERA (Cortical electric response audiometers), OAE (Otoacoustic Emissions), SSEP (Steady state evoked potentials) concisely and comprehensively. The incomprehensible difference between the concepts such as Czech signed language, signed language and sign language is also expressed for the layman very well.

The fifth chapter concerns the terminology of persons with mobility disabilities. There are some terms associated with symptoms of physical disability, the most frequently rehabilitation concepts and language programs such as Makaton or Sign to speech. We can find there some surprising and new terms like Boccia, one of Paralympic sports.

The sixth section is devoted to the terminology of persons with mental disabilities that acquaint the public with services such as Sheltered housing, Job club, Personal assistance, Day care, Supported employment, Respite care and it is a great asset. Clarification of the terms is associated with a diagnosis of ASD and it has an importance according to the increase of incidence recorded worldwide recently. Special

attention is given to in practice very commonly used programs such as Applied behavior analysis method, Structured learning, TEACCH program, Visualization.

The seventh chapter relates to persons with psychosocial hazards and disruptions and there are the key concepts enriched with mention of Cognitive behavioral therapy and their methods such as Problem solving training or Parent management training.

The eighth chapter, specific learning disabilities, gives knowledge about the methods used by pupils with these disabilities such as the Method of coloured cuboids, Method of coloured letters, Method of good start, Fernald method, Tracing method. The list of the most commonly used scales and tests of reading, auditory analysis and synthesis is beneficial.

The ninth chapter includes key terms of the education of children, pupils and students exceptionally gifted. It is now very discussed field, full of frequently used but little cleared expressions such as Brainstorming, Mentoring, Tutoring, etc. We can assess the list of some alternative programs of talented individuals education and classification system of education aims very positively. The important part is devoted to the understanding of intelligence tests and their diagnostic risks. Also in this chapter, the reader can get acquainted with organizations for talented individuals.

The last chapter is devoted to the terminology of the therapy, that has theoretical framework adequately supported by practical dimensions. The author of this chapter gives a reasonable list of current therapies. There is also a clarification of the role of some skilled professionals such as Play specialist, Clown clinic, Co-therapist and others.

We meet with a number of abbreviations that can be understood by experts from highly specialized fields as part of the orientation of special education. It is quite difficult to keep up with terminology for others and it's certainly depressing even for the helping professions and family members of persons with disabilities. These terms are used in spoken and written form, therefore it is very important to understand these concepts. Although the authors recognize the considerable terminological diversity of the terms and transience due to requirements for timeliness terminology, so the publication may be beneficial not only for the aforementioned individuals and students, but it could enrich all who are interested in this issue.

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