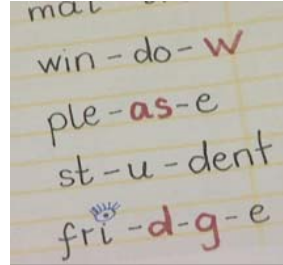


NIACE Research and Development



Key Findings



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Research into approaches to teaching and learning with dyslexic learners in adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL

Abstract

Dyslexia is an important but often contentious issue. The project clarified for the literacy, language and numeracy field key ways of thinking about dyslexia as well as the main approaches/methods offered for teaching and learning with dyslexic learners. It offered support for tutors in selecting and using different methods with different learners and contexts. It also encouraged literacy, language and numeracy staff to explore the field with their learners.

Research methodology:

- ❖ Literature research
- ❖ Consultation with practitioners, an advisory group and key expert consultants
- ❖ Case studies with supporting materials illustrating the most commonly used approaches. Interviews were held with teachers and learners

Key Findings

The main conclusions of the project are:

- ❖ There is a plethora of different theories concerning dyslexia, sometimes they overlap or contradict one another. There are biological, cognitive, behavioural and social levels of description.
- ❖ There are many approaches to teaching and supporting learners.
- ❖ All approaches advocate multi-sensory approaches, learner-centredness and word analysis and break-down.

Recommendations

- ❖ Further work is needed on the critical elements of effective practice.
- ❖ Strong links between staff who are 'specialists' and 'non-specialists' would transfer methods and approaches.
- ❖ A suite of teacher training modules would help the development of practitioners.
- ❖ Awareness-raising for numeracy teachers was considered vital.
- ❖ An adult assessment instrument for dyscalculia would be helpful.

Output

- ❖ *Research into approaches to teaching and learning with dyslexic learners in adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL provision* (DfES unpublished)
- ❖ LSDA and NIACE (2004) *Framework for understanding dyslexia* (DfES, ISBN No 1 84478 159 3)
- ❖ Website: www.dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus/understandingdyslexia
- ❖ Unedited video of case study activities
- ❖ Dissemination events

Funder: DfES

Duration: November 2002-March 2004

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Requests for 'Key Findings' in other formats, such as large print, are welcome. We would be pleased to consider your request.

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