ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

READING INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES


This longitudinal experimental study showed that students with intellectual disabilities can learn to read given consistent, explicit, and comprehensive reading instruction over an extended period of time.


This article presented strategies for providing students with intellectual disabilities with intensive, explicit, systematic instruction to learn to read. The authors emphasized frequent progress monitoring to inform instruction.


This article reported the results of a 10-week literacy program for children with Down syndrome who used a whole-word method to read. At the start of the study, participants demonstrated no apparent decoding skills. The literacy intervention included phonological awareness training, phonics, and whole word reading. All children showed significant improvement in word reading skill, alphabet knowledge and decoding with the majority retaining the gains three months after the program ended.

This study compared the written and oral narratives of school-aged children with Down syndrome to a control group of typically developing children matched by reading level. Results showed that the children with Down syndrome demonstrated many of the same oral and written narrative skills as children in the control group. Fine motor challenges may have influenced the length of written narratives for children with Down syndrome.


This study used direct instruction in phonics to teach reading to students with intellectual disabilities. Results showed improvement in the ability to decode sounds, blend sounds into words, and decode whole words.


This study researched the use of the Corrective Reading Program to teach decoding skills to students with intellectual disabilities. All participants learned specific phonics and phonemic awareness skills.


This study compared a multisensory, structured, systematic reading program (Early Literacy Skills Builders) with the Edmark Reading Program, which uses a sight-word-only approach. The ELSB students scored significantly higher than the Edmark group on four measures.


This article explored the ability to rehearse or refresh phonological codes in working memory in children with intellectual disabilities. This ability appears to be more important than intelligence, language ability and phonemic awareness in predicting reading success.


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This article examined the advanced reading abilities of a child with Down syndrome. Strong phonological awareness skills and strengths in visual and verbal short-term memory were identified as important factors in the child’s reading achievement. This case study supports other research indicating that phonological awareness skills are an important factor in proficient reading for children with Down syndrome.

Results of a 2-year longitudinal study of 49 children with Down syndrome and 61 typically developing children concluded that phonemic awareness and vocabulary were strong predictors of early reading achievement for both groups. However, the influence of phonemic awareness skills on long-term reading outcomes appeared to be stronger for typically developing children than for children with Down syndrome.


A review of the literature that concluded that students with intellectual disabilities can learn to read using a phonics-based approach to instruction.


Ethnographic studies of students with significant disabilities revealed a consistent lack of focus on teaching reading. This population of students is cited as least likely to learn to read without carefully planned, explicit instruction.

The authors investigated the effectiveness of providing phonological awareness (PA) training in combination with phonics instruction for children who were previously taught to read using only a whole word approach. Results from a review of 20 studies indicated that the addition of phonological awareness and phonics instruction to a whole word approach resulted in an improvement in the ability to sound out unfamiliar words for at least some children with Down syndrome.


The purpose of this study was to identify child characteristics that predict growth in reading skills (phonological awareness, sound-symbol association and decoding) in response to reading intervention. Participants made statistically significant growth in identifying letter sounds, decoding, and reading sight words explicitly taught. Students with more advanced skills at the start of the study made greater growth. Findings indicate that explicit, systematic reading instruction benefits many children with Down syndrome.


The current study confirmed that reading comprehension in individuals with Down syndrome is strongly correlated with language skills. The study further found that the reading profile of children with Down syndrome was similar to that of other at-risk readers who demonstrated comprehension difficulties. The authors suggest that oral
language programs designed to help struggling readers with comprehension may be effective in improving the reading comprehension of children with Down syndrome.


This study examined the home literacy environments and level of interest in reading of pre-school-aged children with Down syndrome and typically developing peers. Results confirm the findings of other studies showing the positive effects of early reading intervention on the reading achievement of children with Down syndrome.


This study found that a supplemental multisensory reading program led to accelerated progress in reading proficiency.


A review of 97 studies found that one-to-one tutoring by trained teachers was effective in improving reading performance for at-risk readers. Small-group instruction was not found to be as effective as one-to-one instruction. Computer-assisted instruction had few effects on reading.

In this study, parents were trained to deliver a reading intervention to their preschool children with Down syndrome. The program combined phonological awareness and letter-knowledge training. The intervention resulted in statistically significant gains in letter knowledge, print concepts and phonemic awareness.


This article reports the results of a study of phonological awareness training for children with Down syndrome. Research has shown that phonological awareness, which is critical to the development of decoding skills, is a significant challenge for children with DS. The results of the current study add to the research base that indicates that it is possible to teach phonological awareness to children with Down syndrome with targeted, systematic intervention.


This study of children with mild intellectual disabilities found that phonological awareness skills significantly correlated with reading achievement and vocabulary knowledge.
Relationship of teacher skill and knowledge with reading outcomes:


Teachers in this study reported having advanced knowledge of research based reading instruction yet demonstrated significant gaps in knowledge in the areas of alphabetic, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.


Educators who teach reading to students with disabilities must be skilled in systematic, explicit instructional methods as well as have knowledge of English language structure.

Many teachers are not adequately prepared to provide research-based reading instruction.


Study found that teacher expectations are related to student achievement in reading and are more strongly related to achievement for children at risk of reading failure.


Teacher knowledge and instructional expertise in teaching reading have been found in numerous studies to be related to student reading achievement.

Longitudinal, four-year study of reading instruction showed predictive relationship between teacher knowledge of reading related concepts and reading achievement.


The Panel determined that professional development for teachers in teaching reading results in significantly higher reading achievement for their students.


Teachers must have explicit training and the opportunity to practice their skills in manipulating the sound structure of words (phonological awareness) in order to teach these skills effectively to students.


Study confirms the link between teacher preparation and student academic achievement.