

Course of the Defense: Kisley Di Giuseppe

Presentation Structure:

- 1 - Focus of the Study and Research Questions
- 2 - Rationale of the Study
- 3 - Methodology Used
- 4 - Findings
- 5 - Recommendations for further Research, Practice and Policy
- 6 - Inspirations for further practice in my own context

Focus of the Study:

In-depth picture of teachers' experiences when encouraging social interaction in children with ASD:

- opportunities for meaningful social inclusion
- knowledge, experiences and challenges presented

Research Questions:

- How do teachers of learners with ASD support these learners' needs for interaction?
- How do teachers of learners with ASD support these learners to develop social skills?
- What are the challenges teachers face when encouraging social interaction in classrooms?

Examples of findings

Teachers' Awareness of Needs for Students to Interact and Be Socially Included

- recognising importance of social development for the inclusion of all pupils
- recognising benefits in social interaction in two ways: individual's perspective (communication, participation, social skills and independence) improvement in peers (awareness of differences within society, and learning from students with autism)
- teachers' awareness, perceptions, attitudes and beliefs create conditions to encourage social interaction in classrooms

Teachers' Strategies and Skills in Support of Students' Needs

- recognising the importance of their mediation on socialisation in children: teacher as role model
- preventing exclusion of the student with ASD: preparing, explaining, guiding and encouraging peers
- mediating strategies include: pre-term parents meetings, redirecting when problems arise, instructing praising and reinforcing peers, projects on subjects for all
- creating conditions for the student with ASD to develop social interaction: structured teaching, use of teaching assistants, pair work, group work, play groups and drama
- no consistent time on teaching social skills at individual level

Discussion: How has this research inspired the author for further research?

- developing further research in his own context using action research