

Dissertation evaluation

Title of dissertation: **The transition-related roles and responsibilities of secondary special educators**

Author of dissertation: **Carla Pinto**

Evaluator: **PhDr. Iva Strnadová, Ph.D.**

The importance of transition from secondary education to employment is often stressed in literature about people with intellectual disabilities. Nevertheless the transition-related roles and responsibilities of secondary special educators in the transition process are not always clearly expressed. Therefore I find the focus of the submitted dissertation to be a good answer to the above mentioned need.

You logically structured your dissertation and work with well-defined terms.

The aim of research - to find out the transition-related roles and responsibilities of secondary special educators while preparing youth with intellectual disabilities for employment – was successfully attained. The methodology – collective case study carried out with 12 secondary special educators via interviews and checklists – was appropriately chosen in regards to the aim of the dissertation.

You perform an ability to analyze the data and to put into context the data gained via qualitative and quantitative approach.

You pay a lot of attention in your data analysis to family involvement (page 59-62), which is an important issue. Nevertheless I am missing in any mention of possible “parental point-of-view”.

You demonstrated your ability to critically evaluate your research in theory and methodology terms and to indicate its strengths and weaknesses.

The suggestions for improvements:

- The formal side of the dissertation deserved a bit more attention (e.g. numbering of chapters and sub-chapters on page vii, page 47 – chapter four or five?, page 69 – chapter five or six?).

- The International Classification of Diseases – Tenth Addition (ICD-10) was published in 1992, not 1994 (see page 16).
- It is always better to work with the most up-to-date sources – e.g. you mention The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV), but the latest version published is DSM-IV-TR from 2000 (see page 16).
- The recommendation in the field of methodology used is to follow more carefully the literature on statistical evaluation on data. I am missing for example the reference about level of significance.

The suggestions for questions to be answered at the viva are the following:

- Which of the recommendations made by secondary special educators in regards to the teacher training program you personally see as the most challenging? Justify your answer.
- In what ways can teacher training program equip teachers with the skills related to work with parents?

I recommend the dissertation to be accepted to the viva.

Evaluation: 2

Prague, 5. 8. 2006



PhDr. Iva Strnadová, PhD.