

KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS ON AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

Abstract

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is characterized by affecting neurological development, causing losses in the areas of social communication and manifestation of restricted patterns of interests and activities. Faced with an increase in cases of this disorder in the population, this study aimed to investigate the knowledge about ASD. Therefore, we considered the experience with this disorder during the career in education, the decisions to be taken when identifying signs of ASD in a child, the requests to be made if they receive a student with ASD and the opinion of the professionals about the importance of a first diagnosis for Early Childhood Education. The study included 170 professionals from Municipal Integrated Infantile Education (EMEI) from a city of the interior of São Paulo participated in the study. The main results indicate a general lack of knowledge about the aspects that define and characterize a child with ASD, although most of the participants (55.29%) reported having lived with an individual with ASD in their education career. Moreover, the strategies adopted in identifying signs of ASD in a child were ineffective. We concluded that such data indicate the need of minimum training on the subject so that they can offer a quality educational service to these children.

Keywords: *Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Diagnoses. Teachers of Early Childhood Education.*