

Identify effective practices for working with people with complex communication needs. Network Data

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Abstract

The Network of Effective Practices for Working with People with Complex Communication Needs in the Framework of Inclusive Communication is led by the University of Malaga. This network is composed of 18 professors from 6 different universities [Western University, (Ontario, Canada), University of Montreal (Montreal, Canada), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla, Universidad Rovira i Virgili (Tarragona) and Universidad de Málaga]. The profile of the researchers is interdisciplinary (psychologists, speech therapists, engineers, translators, teachers and biologists). The work methodology has involved different periodic on-line meetings. The objective that was established aimed at elaborating a protocol of efficient practices to offer strategies to professionals working with people with complex communication needs. A proposal for a questionnaire of efficient practices was elaborated. This proposal has gathered information on 9 key aspects for inclusive communication. The questionnaire was developed using the google survey tool, was anonymous and collected both the personal opinion of the professionals and information about their daily professional practice. The responses of professionals working with people with complex communication needs arising from intellectual disabilities were analyzed using the Delphi method. The results have pointed to the willingness of professionals in educational centers to embrace inclusive values, although they have stressed the importance of continuing to train teachers and caregivers in inclusive communication to make it a reality. Specifically, 75% of the respondents pointed out a training gap, which should be addressed through continuous training.

Keywords: Inclusive communication, intellectual disability, interdisciplinary perspective, network, professional support