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EDUC 712 – Introduction to Qualitative Research

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**What is the problem of practice as you see it?**

The problem practice that I see is the quality of Inclusive Practices (including children with special needs with typical peers) in Head Start preschool classrooms are not measured. I am interested in studying about the quality of Inclusive Practices (including children with special needs with typical peers) of Head Start preschool classrooms.

Head Start mandates that 10% of the total children enrolled are reserved to serve children with special needs and their families. Even though Head Start has many mandates and accountability measures in place i.e. comprehensive early education – parent involvement, learning standards, mental health support, inclusion etc…, measuring the quality of Inclusive Practices is not one of them. Children with special needs (atypical children) have many challenges to overcome in order to obtain a preschool education due to the limitations of their disability. Administrators and teachers of Head Start preschool programs are not required to have any education and or training to work with children with special needs.

**What perspective could you be missing?**

1. The impact on student performance of students with disabilities if preschool teachers are knowledgeable about special education services and support.
2. The view of Head Start preschool Administrators of effectiveness of inclusive practices in their program.
3. The view of Head Start preschool teachers of effectiveness of inclusive practice in their classrooms.

**What would you like to learn from this research?**

By conducting this research (by assessing the quality of inclusive Practices), I would like to learn way to support administrators and teachers of Head Start preschool programs to implement high quality Inclusive Practices to preschool students with special needs in Head Start preschools so that students will have full access to the curriculum and best practices of early childhood education.

**What would you like to change based on this research?**

I would like to provide full access and equity to preschool education for children with special needs attending Head Start classrooms. I would like to change the current Inclusive Practices (including children with special needs with typical peers) of Head Start preschool classrooms by making the following recommendations based on my research:

1. Head Start preschool classrooms to use the Inclusive Classroom Profile (ICP), the tool to assess and measure Inclusive Practices.
2. Head Start Administrators to attend on-going professional development trainings on Inclusive Practices of Preschool children.
3. Head Start teachers to attend on-going professional development trainings on Inclusive Practices of Preschool children
4. Head Start and Early Childhood Education programs of school districts offer team teaching opportunities in Head Start and early childhood education classes,

By assessing the learning experience, I want to point out accommodations and modifications so that equitable learning experience can be offered to children with special needs in Head Start preschool classrooms in order for them to be successful in preschool and beyond. Even though an equal and fair preschool education is offered to all children, equality is not equity.

**What is the purpose of performing this research?**

The purpose of performing this research is to address a problem practice has not been address in the early childhood education profession. By addressing this issue (Assessing the quality of Inclusive Practices in Head Start Preschool classrooms), preschool children with special needs will have access and equity to preschool education. In addition, teachers and administrators will be benefited.