

ABSTRACT

LEARNING DISABLED STUDENTS' SELF-PERCEPTIONS

Approximately 3 million school-age children are receiving special education services for Learning Disabilities (LD). People's perceptions can contribute to LD students having lower self-esteem than non-LD students. This study addressed two questions: After matching for gender and ethnicity (a) Are self-perceptions of college students with LD lower than self-perceptions of college students without LD? and (b) Are self-perceptions of college students identified as LD in elementary school lower than self-perceptions of college students identified as LD after elementary school? A total of 76 Central Valley of California college students participated in this nonexperimental, cross-sectional study. Self-perception was measured via 13 scales of the Self-Perception Profile for College Students. Two significant group differences were found: Perceptions of parental relationships were higher in LD than non-LD participants, and perceptions of job competence were higher in LD participants identified late than those identified early.

Tiffany Lauren Scarritt
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