

## “The Effectiveness of Computer- Based Sight Words to Improve Reading Skill in Autism. "Discuss

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### Abstract

Specialists in the field of Special Education endeavour to achieve educational integration for people with special needs, particularly people with autism. The term "Autism" means that is a developmental disorder (Dautenhahn & Werry,2004). However, academic problems stand as barriers towards achieving the principle of educational integration for this category. These academic problems are due to the developmental and educational features of this students, such a weak in Social communication, a difficulty with social relationships and in the development of play and imagination (Dautenhahn & Werry,2004).It seems that some of the most serious problems faced by autism persons in the classroom is difficulties of reading due to their inability to read and understand information conveyed through writing, and this negatively impacts their independence and self-reliance capabilities (Alotaibi,2001). It has been argued that sight words strategy could be a solution to this problem. This essay will describe that definition and effectiveness of sight words strategy as well as teachers' problems with autism students.

**Keywords:** Computer- Based Sight Words, Reading Skill, Autism.

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According to Al Rusan (2000) it appears that a lot of teachers suffer from these academic problems due to the developmental and educational features of this category, such as the low intelligence level in IQ "less than 71", weak memory, forgetting, losing information, difficulty of generalizing situations and experiences. In addition to that, there are also the linguistic difficulties particularly in narrating stories likewise, transfer of long messages. Moreover, there are many behavioural aspects which are socially unacceptable. The standards of social adaptive behaviour point to the existence of many modes of non-adaptive behaviours which need to be modified.

It is evident that reading and writing difficulties have affected a daily life of the intellectually retarded person due to an inability to read and understand the written words, and this negatively effect job self-independence of the autism person. In addition to that, the scientific researchs before the sixties were not concerned with focusing on a skill of reading and writing. This reason may be due to the fact that concern at that time was focused on other skills because of the impression prevailing at that time which showed that such students are not able to learn reading (Richek et al,1996)

Brown & Perlmutter (1971) defined of the sight words strategy and the photographed words as "certain responses that can not be controlled by a printed stimulus". These printed stimulus determines the phase of verbal response by the student. In addition, it shows that using different educational ways and sight words strategy had a great effect on teaching basic sight words and phrases to these students. Also, the importance of learning sight words to know the sentences has gained more importance as a means that helps autism persons to communicate with society normal individuals (Richek et al, 1996).

It seems that many researchs have confirmed that the sight word has the positive effective on instructive methods for teaching this skill. Thus, there are many methods of teaching and plans that have been developed and tested by the researchers (Alrsas,2003). Furthermore, would probably, Modern researchs are derived from the lectures presented for teaching recognition of sight words and sentences to students having intellectual disabilities. This method proved to effectiveness of teaching methodologies and it error-free (Browder et al, 1998).

One of the effective teaching methods in teaching sight words for autism students is the use of multimedia technology. Interactive means contributes effectively in teaching category of a autism person because it engages all senses of the learner in the educational process. In other words, this interactive technology is supported the method of total learning. The interactive media technology also plays a positive role in simplified abstract concepts that the persons with autism fail to understand the sensible concepts which a autism person can see, hear and perceive in a way suiting his limited autism. This media is distinctive by their interaction with the learner as they provide the autism persons the sufficient time to learn according to their available autism and it stimulates their with feedback and various enhancement methods. These features and some other features encourage the researcher to select interactive media technology by using of a computer to employ them as the educational tool in the field of special education to discover horizons of its uses in teaching this category. A number of previous studies have proven importance of interactive media in arousing the senses in a complete

way in teaching autism. Some of these studies are the study of Al Alberto (2010) which confirmed the positive role of multiple media as a teaching technology used in improving pronunciation and speech for children with mild autism, and study of Al Rusais (2002) which has proven effectiveness of interactive programs as an educational technology through use of computer to make learning of mathematics easier and to transfer effect of learning to new situations.

The idea of using sight words could be a good strategy to solve the problem of disability reading with intellectual disabilities. Indeed, it may help to reduce reading problems and resulting negative effects on psychology problems with the autism. It is likely that many teachers will use the sight word strategy to improve reading skills and solve a lot of problems in the classes.

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