

# Inclusive education – is teamwork the road to success??





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Summary: Successful inclusive education needs teachers who are competent in both content matter and individual tention. This is best achieved by building teams of Teachers for Regular Education (TRE) and Teachers for Special Educational Needs (TSEN). Perceived competence as a team influences the attitude towards inclusive education, as first results of our intervention-study reveal. Particularly the mean values of the constructs "attitude towards the organisation of inclusive education" and "perception of professional roles" show a significant increase after the interventive seminar.

## **1. Research-Question**

# Does collaborative teaching of teacher students of different disciplines have an effect on their concepts of and their attitude towards inclusion?

# Attitude towards the organization of inclusive education and professional role as teacher **raises significantly after seminar** (from Pre- to Post-Test) (A)

# 4. Results

### 2. Theoretical Background

#### **Inclusive education means:**

- Teaching children with and without special educational needs in one classroom
- Collaboration of teachers with different areas of expertise

#### Successful inclusive education needs:

- Effective collaboration, i.e. appreciation of each other's specific competences <sup>(3)</sup>
- Positive attitudes of teachers <sup>(1)</sup>
- $\rightarrow$  Collaboration must be trained <sup>(2)</sup>
- → Collaboration raises appreciation and selfconcept<sup>(1)</sup>

 Special education teachers have a significantly higher attitude towards their ability to organize inclusive lessons, while regular teachers have a higher perception of their professional role in Pre-Test; no significant difference anymore in Post-test (B)



efficacy as teachers (N=15; constructs standardized)

- → Collaboration thus may improve attitude
- → Positive attitude is crucial for successful inclusion <sup>(2)</sup>

# 3. Methodology

Pre-Test

 Seminar on discipline-specific competence and Team-teaching

Post-Test 1

Practical phase in teams at inclusive schools



## 5. Discussion

# Post-Test 2

Reflexion and evaluation

### **Evaluation** is done with the help of

- Questionnaires to capture attitude and perceived self-efficacy as teacher
- Concept-Maps to visualize concepts of inclusive education
- Diaries to document the practical phase at schools

The results demonstrate a change in attitude after the first part of the intervention. Obviously, the insight into each other's areas of expertise and the active participation in team-building-processes already show an effect on attitude.

The effect of the cooperation in practice remains to be seen.

#### 6. Literature

(1) Avramidis, E., Bayliss, P., Burden, R. (2000): A survey into mainstream teacher's attitudes towards the inclusion of children with special educational needs in the ordinary school in one local education authority. In: Educational Psychology, 20, H. 2 (2000), 191–211.

(2) Murawski, W. W. (2009): Collaborative Teaching in Secondary Schools – Making the Co-Teaching Marriage Work! Thousand Oaks: Corwin.

(3) Schwager, M. (2011): Gemeinsames Unterrichten im Gemeinsamen Unterricht. In: Zeitschrift für Heilpädagogik 3, 92-98.