

Researching Support for Parents of people with disability

An Analysis of Historical Change Based on the Journal of Special Education (1980-2015)

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The purpose of the current article is organizing studies about support for parents of people with disability, surveying these of historical change from Special Education. 52 articles about support for parents of people with disabilities were chosen from articles that were published on Special Education 1980-2015. These 52 articles are classified to some categories about 3 viewpoints, the purpose of study, the method of study, the subject of study. Then, analyzed the tendency every year.

The number of articles each 10 years shows tendency of the increase. So that, average of article number each year is increasing.

In item of “the purpose of study”, studies for revealing stress and difficulty of parents that was actively conducted in 1980s, had decreased in 1990s. Instead of this theme, as studies to research support for child rearing, the purpose of study was notably diversified from 1990s.

In item of “the subject of study”, it became clear to change subjects of studies as the times change. For example, in 1980s, many studies targeted parents of “children with disability”. Through the times, kinds of disability that are focused by researchers has changed to autism, developmental disorder, etc.

In item of “the method of study”, it was revealed that quantitative research was actively conducted in 1980s, but after 1990s quantitative research gradually decreased, in 2000s and 2010s quantitative research has been replaced to qualitative research. At the same time, case study has been increasing too.

From the above, in these 30 years, the tendency of studies about support for parents of people with disability has remarkably changed.