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Study of the Behavioral Characteristics of Pupils with Learning Disabilities in Elementary Schools in Mosul City	عنوان الرسالة

Abstr**act**

A descriptive design was applied to identify the characteristics of behavior of learning disabilities students, (attention defect hyperactivity disorder, poor attention behavior, poor self esteem behavior, poor social skills behavior, poor impulsive behavior, aggressive behavior, isolation behavior, dependency behavior), and to classify learning disabilities according to types as (Developmental learning disabilities, Academic learning disabilities), and to signify problem among the pupils according to their sex, class, and severity. The study subjects consist of 126 pupils who were diagnosed with especial needs in Nineveh Education Directorate, their age ranges between 6-10 years. The data were collected from 10 Nineveh elementary schools during a period of four months extending from 1st December, 2010 to 30th March, 2011. Al – Zayat scale was used to diagnose pupils with learning disabilities. This scale is prepared to be applied by teachers through their daily observation of pupils. The validity of the scale, was done through reviewed of 10 experts of different specialties related to the field of the present study were chosen. Reliability of the scales was determined through the use of test and re-test approach and the interval period was two weeks. The findings revealed that most pupils had moderate learning disabilities, which constituted 36.5 % while 19 % of them had sever learning disability, such as (attention, visual perception, hearing perception, memory, motor, mathematics and reading disabilities, except writing disability which shows that most pupils had mild writing disability, which constituted 30% while 22.5% of them had sever writing disability. According to behavioral characteristics the findings revealed that most pupils had normal behavior with learning disabilities, which constituted 63.42% while 36.58% of them were abnormal behavior with learning disabilities. But different in severity such as attention defect hyperactivity disorder, 19% of pupils had sever abnormal behavior with learning disabilities. And poor attention the pupils were 15.87% of them had severe abnormal behavior with learning disabilities. And in impulsive behavior the pupils had 15.05% of them had sever abnormal impulsive behavior with learning disabilities. Attention defect hyperactivity disorders have more severity than other behavioral characteristics and occur in second and third class. Mathematics disability is the highest percentage and frequency in both gender and found in fourth class. The study recommended that pediatricians and nurses must be aware to increase prevalence of learning disabilities and importance of early diagnosis and referral any suspected case to Psychiatric research unit, assist pupils to express their problems, and understand their motivations for behaviors, and make them continue interaction with their communities.