Yamada project to encourage reading - Lebanon Lebanese Board on Books for Young People

Conference title:

Promoting Reading among People with Special Needs

Reading books and stories play a prominent role in children's lives. Every person has the right to access books and enjoy getting actively involved with the world of reading and stories. Therefore, the Lebanese Board on Books for Young readers, in partnership, and with a generous funding from YAMADA, launched an initiative to reach people with special needs and empower them with the necessary tools to explore children's books. This conference lasted for 5 consecutive days, from 17 to 21 August 2020, for a period of twenty hours.

The objectives of this conference centered on training and assisting educators and specialists who deal with people with special needs, on how to stimulate and encourage reading. Also its about motivating and helping any person to listen to, read and understand a story, regardless of the degree of disability. The third goal is how to help people with special needs, react to, and express, the story through several techniques and different artistic activities such as drawing, music...

This conference presented in Arabic, was hosted on the Zoom platform by the organization of the Psychologists Center. Almost 1000 participants registered completely free. Participants in the program (individuals and institutions) received the course certificate and a special booklet that was distributed free of charge at the end of the training.

The trainers for this conference were:

- Dr. Sherine Kreidieh / specialist in children's literature
- Dr. Antoine Al-Shartouni / specialist in psychological disorders and psychoanalysis, and writer in children's literature.
- Nada Barakat Khawaja / Writer and Consultant in Special Educatio
- Esther Bouanton / Clinical Psychologist
- Marlene Gideon / Professor of Arabic Language at the Lebanese School for the Blind and the Deaf, Department of the Blind.
- Mary Matar: Teaching competency in the Arabic language / Arabic language coordinator - Academic advisor for the Arabic language at the SDC Educational Foundation / Writer in children's literature.
- Hana Abu Khadra Salem / member of the Lebanese Down Syndrome Association
 / Director of Next Step Program at the American University of Beirut.
- · Sinan Hallak / graphic illustrator, book designer and university professor

Aya Bahsoun / a professional educator

The topics covered during the conference, were the following:

- Children's literature and its importance in education.
- What are the inclusive books?
- Types of mental, physical and sensory disabilities, and discrimination of mental intelligence and cognitive intelligence in children.
- What are the books that a person with special needs can use?
- How can the educator adapt a story according to the abilities of a student with special needs?
- How do we compose a song about a story with children with special needs?
- What are the different activities (drawing-music-role-playing ...) that we can offer for children with special needs?
- Image of the story in the world of blind children.
- What are the different activities (drawing music role playing ...) that we can offer to children with special needs that are based on stories.?????
- Diverse methods of reading stories and special techniques to facilitate reading and motivate children with special needs.
- The experience of Reading with my child with Down syndrome.
- The role of modern technology in facilitating and encouraging reading for people with special needs.
- Motivating children with special needs to express themselves through expressive pictures and drawing art.
- The importance of using social stories with children who have an autism spectrum disorder.



Conference footage

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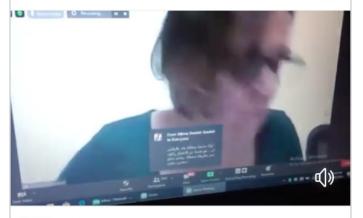
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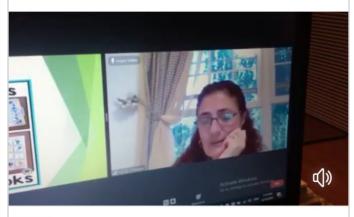


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