

Barry, Thomas J, 2002, *The Prevalence and Severity of Dyslexia in a Special Needs School.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This dissertation investigated the prevalence and severity of dyslexia in a special needs school. Chapter One contains a historical review of mental handicap and traces the development of measures both legal and educational designed to improve the social and academic status of the mentally handicapped in Ireland. The chapter includes a brief overview of the school in which the study was undertaken.

Chapter Two reviews some definitions of dyslexia and traces its historical development from when it was first identified to the present day. Included also is an extensive review of the more relevant research and literature available on the subject in areas such as the relationship between dyslexia and brain function, eye movement, reading, phonological deficit theory and the contribution of the work of geneticists to dyslexia. Chapter Three includes a discussion on research methodology and outlines the research method used in this work to discover if there were any dyslexic students in the school where the study was set.

Chapter Four incorporates an analysis of the research material based on the study findings. This chapter also includes examples of the work of the students who were found to be dyslexic. In chapter Five the conclusions from the study are outlined and appropriate recommendations made.