

**Fox, Helen, 1997, *Self Esteem and Academic Achievement in the Primary School*.**

### **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

This dissertation considers the theory of self-esteem, i.e. definition of self-esteem, significance of self-esteem and the origins of self-esteem. The influence of parents in developing children's self-esteem is examined. Mounting research evidence, as well as the experience of teachers, psychologists and counsellors, indicated that children who are troubled and have learning difficulties within classrooms come from problematic home situations and have self-esteem difficulties. The resolution of conflicts within homes and the education of children's self-esteem are major responsibilities for parents and determine not only their children's educational development but also their emotional and social behaviour.

Chapter Two examines the role of education in the enhancement of the child's self-esteem. Educationalists have become aware that I.Q., parental interest and social class provide only a partial explanation of academic performance. It is apparent that personality motivational influences need to be invoked too, the major one being self-esteem. Self-esteem and educational implications are dealt with under the following headings: Self-esteem and Academic Achievement, Self-Esteem and the Under Achiever, Self-Esteem and the Non-Achiever.

Chapter Three is a study on a random sample of sixth class boys to compare self-esteem results and academic, achievement results.

Finally Chapter Four draws some conclusions and makes some recommendations.