

Università degli Studi di Salerno

THESIS

“Living with autism, living with autism for a silent search, watchful and steady in the intricate maze of feelings, ideas, emotions and experiences for a comprehensive educational growth”.

My PhD thesis is entitled “Living with autism, living with autism for a silent search, watchful and steady in the intricate maze of feelings, ideas, emotions and experiences for a comprehensive educational growth”. It is focused on the mysterious and fascinating world of autism that has always attracted the attention of scholars and scientists from various fields: psychologists, educators, biologists, physicians and even teachers, especially those specialized in assisting disabled scholars, personally engaged in facing the problem of their education.

The choice of engaging in this very special issue by Dr. Bilotta has been driven by her previous work as assisting professor in junior high schools that let her having deep experiences with a few scholars affected by autism. During these working occasions she experienced different teaching methods, each one suitable for a particular situation or individual.

The autism threat, whose provoking reasons are still inexplicable and uncertain, is a psycho-social pathology emerging during the first years of a child life.

During this period the child did not show his will and desire to know the new world; on the contrary he reveals an almost totally closure to the world and a tendency to isolation, refusing every kind of contact with the outside world.

These atypical behaviors are often linked with the absence of spoken language, wrong linguistic expressions or even illogical thoughts that follow the ill child’s fantasies.

The act of building an imaginary world and the estrangement from the daily reality could be a serious problem for this individual, since he does not perceive any danger coming from the outside world.

Therefore, such individuals with disability are in need of a permanent control since their uncontrolled actions are unpredictable and accidental.

The interests of scholars affected by autism are limited, particular and different from those of their peers and often can even cause morbidity and excessive attraction, as much as it could become difficult for another person to remove the constant attention they attract.

A professor’s main task, especially of the one assisting disabled, is to lure the child’s attention even to new and different knowing proposals in order enrich and refine its ability to discern the information, to organize and to manage them independently.

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