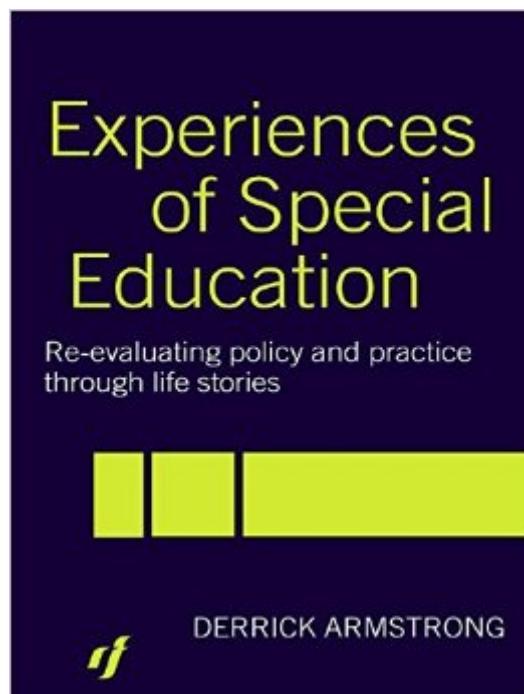


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Experiences Of Special Education: Re-evaluating Policy And Practice Through Life Stories



Synopsis

Discussion about educational provision for children with learning difficulties has largely ignored the voices of those for whom that provision is intended. *Experiences of Special Education* argues that these 'insider perspectives' are of central importance for a fuller understanding of special educational needs policy. Bringing a unique focus to the subject of special needs education, Derrick Armstrong reassesses the history of special educational policy through the life-stories of those who have first-hand experience. These stories contest official policy discourses and inform an understanding of the competing political and professional debates in this area, allowing the reader to:^{*} Investigate the social and historical contexts of special educational needs policy^{*} Challenge traditional notions of policy research^{*} Explore alternative policy discourses informed by the voices of the excluded. This thought-provoking book is based on detailed case-study analysis of the experiences of over thirty adults who attended special institutions/schools between 1994 and the present. It provides a fresh perspective on current discussions of special educational provisions for teachers, student teachers, policy makers and academics, involved in special education.

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