Second Chance Learners

By chad.habel
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From Lisa Emerson:

Hi everyone: I wonder if someone could point me to a good source of research related to second chance learners? I'm particularly interested in any research related to second chance learners and their acquisition of academic writing skills. Any pointers appreciated!

Many thanks

Lisa Emerson

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Hi Lisa

I'm not quite sure what you mean by "second chance" learners - do you mean people coming back to study after a long time, what used to be known as "mature aged" and related types of student? If so, I'm presenting at the AALL conference this year on some research I'm doing on a Foundation Course which might relate, so I'm happy to chat to you there if you're attending. I've found very little in this area (although it's very important and becoming more so), but if anyone else knows of some prior research I would also really appreciate some suggestions!

Thanks
Chad

Hi, Lisa and Chad

Some years ago I was involved with some campus colleagues in some research relating to our Bridging programs (subsequently replaced by the one Whyalla Bridging Program. Now there is a university-wide program: UniSA Foundation Studies http://www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/Program-plan-list.asp?Program=...)

The following conference papers may be of interest, even though they are from nearly a decade ago - there is a link to the FYE one (not based on the research project, but some findings were incorporated into the conference presentation). I'll send you both the SPERA one, which also has some references to some second-chance work by M McFadden.


Cooper, N, Ellis, B & Sawyer, J 2000, 'Expanded future opportunities provided by a bridging course at a regional university campus', The Fourth Pacific Rim - First Year in Higher Education Conference: Creating Futures for a New Millennium, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, 5-7 July 2000,
Hi there. If you can access the following journal articles, you will find information relating to the experiences of mature age learners in Enabling programs but not so much research tailored to the acquisition of academic writing skills. However, take a look. The articles were chosen from presentations at the National Association of Enabling Educators conference, held every two years since 2004. The next conference is in November of this year… In Toowoomba.

Hope this helps… definitely worth a read..

Seary, K. and Willans, J. (2004). “It’s more than just academic essays and rules of mathematics: Travelling the road with heroes on the STEPS journey into signposts for their future”, Australian Journal of Adult Learning, 44 (3).


Kind regards
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Forgot to tell you… my current doctoral thesis, almost completed, is about the perception of self as learner of mature age learners who engaged in an Enabling program here at CQUniversity in Rockhampton. I will chase up your papers Bronwyn to add to my reading!

j

Dear Lisa,

At the time of writing the thesis I phoned DEST to qualify the use of 'second chance students' as used by Nelson (2002) and DEST suggested that the definition includes (e.g., students who were re-engaging in study, mature age,
Year 12 completers, unmatriculated school-leavers, students returning to study, students from disadvantaged backgrounds and under-represented groups). For the purpose of my study I positioned 'second chance students' as mature age who presented with one or more of the above demographic.

Regards
Marguerite

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Research help [11]