

Catherine Evans

The Achilles Kids Virtual Marathon Program and its Impact on Children with Disabilities.

Abstract: Through this research project, I hope to look at the effects of the Achilles Virtual Marathon Program (VMP) on the elementary school students who participate in it. Studies have shown that physical exercise can be a normalizing and positive experience for children with disabilities (Taub & Greer, 2000). This study will aim to examine if the VMP also has impacts on the students involved in it. Interviews will be conducted with the physical educators who implement the program in order to gain qualitative information about how the program might affect the children who participate in it. The research will look for themes within the interviews in order to develop an idea of the impact the program has on those that participate in it. The results of this project will not only provide information on possible positive influences of a program for elementary aged children with disabilities, they will also help to develop future research questions, especially ones that might be more general to all children with disabilities. I expect to find that the VMP will be reported to positively affect those who participate in it.