

Juveniles who have learning difficulties

Name:

Institution:

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*How are they treated compared to other juveniles? How are their needs met?*

Typically, juveniles with learning disabilities within the prison system are not often discussed, as we are more focused on the punishment people will get. However, it is also vital to keep in mind that a crime a person has committed can be minor, which presupposes that such a juvenile will soon be out. Therefore, it is important to make sure they come out a better person with a desire to lead a different life. In addition to that, it is essential to make sure such person does not spend time in prison in vain. There are different courses and programs that help juveniles keep up with their educational needs in jail.

Yet, one significant question remains: are the needs of juveniles with learning disabilities met? Do countries have specific programs oriented for this group of people? How are juveniles with learning disabilities treated in prison? These are very important questions—the answers to which will be provided below.

Statistical data shows that the prevalence of juveniles with learning disabilities is higher than those in the general population (Kvarfordt, Purcell, & Shannon, 2005). Speaking about correctional centers, up to 46% of the population there have learning disabilities. Perhaps, the problem lies in the fact that it is much harder to be a part of the educational system when a person has learning disabilities, which are not addressed properly by schools and the government. Thus, it has a negative effect on the mental state of a person, who starts believing that they are worse than everyone else because they are not able to demonstrate great results that everyone else in their class seems to be able to do so easily. In addition, it is very easy to lose motivation when a child with learning disabilities cannot do something quickly. As a result, a lot of such children start looking for other things and activities and, unfortunately, it quite often leads to committing minor crimes.

Speaking about the state of affairs with programs for juveniles with disabilities, the situation is not great as well. The programs are rare which means that in most cases, the needs of juveniles with disabilities are not addressed properly. Typically, there is only one general educational program which teens with disabilities find very hard to follow (Read, 2014). However, a few instructional practices have been developed in order to teach the staff how to address the needs of juveniles with disabilities. What is more, a growing number of facilities are trying to implement these programs.

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