

## **The End game for Children with learning disabilities: A case study of Children in Shire Urban community, Lilongwe, Malawi**

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**Introduction:** Children with Learning Disabilities often go beyond the age of 13 years, repeating lower grade classes in primary school in Malawi. Interventions in some instances are provided to assist these children in primary schools but they cannot stay in primary school forever. In some cases learning disabilities are not identified in these children.

**Objectives:** To identify children with learning disabilities who are between the ages of 13years and 18years old and are still in primary school.

To empower these children with vocational skills and/ or other income generating projects.

Assist with community integration of these children.

**Method:** Educating teachers, parents and community leaders on learning disabilities.

Conduct Occupational therapy and Speech therapy assessments on these children, aimed at identifying specific learning disabilities, so as to develop intervention plans.

Identify people in the community (key personnel) who engage in various occupations that can be of interest to the children with learning disabilities. For example carpenters, builders, mechanics, sports personnel. Attach a child with learning disabilities to be their 'apprentice'.

The children with Learning disabilities will also be assisted with Occupational therapy sessions aimed at improving their cognitive, perceptual and sensory functions.

**Practice Implications:** This will equip the children with learning disabilities to be functional members of the society, being part of Occupational therapy intervention for these children. It will increase community awareness and involvement with issues to do with learning disabilities.

**Conclusion:** Warm Heart Children's therapy and wellness center continues to assist these children with learning disabilities in Lilongwe Malawi.