

I GOT THIS

OBJECTIVE

Self-efficacy is an essential skill necessary for students to learn. Students with poor self-efficacy tend to be at-risk or struggling learners. As a pre-service teacher, I was interested in finding out struggling students' perceptions of their own self-efficacy. This study aims to 1) investigate struggling students' self-efficacy 2) analyze the data 3) offer ways to help build self-efficacy in students

METHODS

Fifty K-5 struggling students in Ames and Waterloo, Iowa completed a questionnaire. The questionnaire was given by either myself, the student's tutor, or the student him/herself. The survey asked questions about ways the student may demonstrate self-efficacy, and asks them to rate how confident they are in that specific area. Surveys were then given back (39) and analyzed.

RESULTS

While analyzing the results, I found that there were eighteen students who would frequently rank themselves very confident. On the flipside, there were seven students who frequently scored themselves low. There were five students who scored themselves without a pattern. A graph to summarize the findings is available as a handout.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I believe that self-efficacy is a skill that some students have and use in their life- but some students do not. I believe that it is something that all students should learn about. I created a self-efficacy module that I taught at Sacred Heart Elementary in Waterloo, Iowa. These students were frequently making comments about being stupid, or not trying because "they just can't do it anyway." During the session, the students participated in a discussion about a time where they believed in themselves and drew a picture of the time. Together, we wrote a book.

