

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with the problematics of sensory processing with premature children. The aim of the thesis is to show the important role of an occupational therapist taking care of infants with perinatal risks already at NICU. Another aim of the thesis is to create an unofficial Czech translation of the standardized Toddler Sensory Profile 2 Test and use it to evaluate the quality of sensory processing with premature children and compare the results with those of children born in term. In the theoretical part, the classification of newborns is described for better understanding and orientation, together with the risks premature birth brings and the role of an occupational therapist taking care of such children. In the thesis, the approach of Sensory Integration and a classification of Sensory Processing Disorders (SPD) are described. At the end of the theoretical part, the Sensory Profile 2 Test is further described, especially its part dedicated to toddlers (TSP2). The practical part is made of a quantitative research. In the research, the total number of 70 two-year-old toddlers were assessed using TSP2, out of which 44 were born premature and 26 in term. The group of premature toddlers was further divided into 15 late preterm, 17 very preterm and 17 extreme preterm children. The results did not show statistically important differences among the respective groups, however, SPD appeared in all groups of premature children. Therefore, the test can be considered beneficial and it is possible to use it for SPD screening of children with perinatal risks.

Key words: Premature, Sensory Integration, Pediatric Occupational Therapy, Standardized assessment, Sensory Processing Disorder, Sensory Profil 2