ABSTRACT

For my dissertation, I have chosen to monitor and research growing children in Prague and in the Central Bohemian Region.

Primarily, I am interested in the growth period of the younger school age (which corresponds to the first degree of compulsory school attendance). However, I also monitored and worked with the growth data of infant and pre-school aged children. The reason for this is that I needed the growth data from a longer period of time for a better assessment.

I am really interested in the area of child anthropology because I believe the growth of every child is essential for their future. The final height and weight of the individual, specifically his/her total body proportions, can have a significant influence on their next life. I am convinced that this can have a major influence on the health, social application and self-confidence for each of us.

Thanks to a very willing approach of a Prague pediatrician I managed to accumulate the growth data of children living in Prague. I would like to compare the obtained data with the data of children living in the Central Bohemian Region.

I was able to gain the growth data of the children thanks to the friendly cooperation of my pupils’ parents, my acquaintances and friends. Children were selected according to their health cards. On these cards pediatricians write down the growth data of children during compulsory medical examinations.

In the theoretical part of my dissertation I deal with the description of the individual stages of growth periods, the factors influencing the growth of children, assessment of school maturity, growth curves and the explanation of terms related to the topic of my work.

In the practical part, on which my work is mostly built, I devoted the evaluation of growth and development of children with the help of graphs. I processed them based on the available growth data.

The aim of my thesis was to compare the growth data of children living permanently in the capital city of Prague with the growth data of children living in the Central Bohemian Region in a village or a small town.

Lastly, in my work I devoted and detailed the growth stages of younger school age children. This is the period from the beginning of compulsory school attendance (6 - 7 years) until the approximate time of primary school attendance (11 – 12 years).
KEY WORDS

children, longitudinal research, growth, height, weight, head circumference, preschool development, primary school development