

ABSTRACT

The diploma thesis is focused on psychomotor development in children with cerebral palsy in context of persisting primitive reflexes. Opening chapters summarize theoretical knowledge about cerebral palsy, its etiology, clinical picture, forms and comprehensive diagnostics, including special education. The next part of the thesis focuses on psychomotor development of a child with cerebral palsy, in particular the gross and fine motor activity development and speech development. The main section of the thesis discusses the neurophysiological principles of primitive reflexes and their relevance for early development of a child. The primitive reflexes, one by one, as well as the influence of their persistence on the psychomotor development of the child with cerebral palsy and options of their integration by selected therapeutic concepts are presented. Attention is also paid to the importance of multidisciplinary cooperation of medical rehabilitation and special pedagogical care in the field of primitive reflexology. The practical part is based on qualitative methodology and its operates with data gained from three case studies. The aim of the diploma thesis is to examine by means of case studies whether or not the integration of primitive reflexes demonstrably improves the psychomotor skills, behavior, emotionality and specific learning disorders of individuals with cerebral palsy. The thesis also focuses on the selection of an appropriate intervention method or their combination as the most optimal approach to the integration of primitive reflexes present in children with cerebral palsy. It ensues from the case studies, that suitably applied integrative exercise lowers primitive reflexes manifestation, improve current condition and enables new psychomotor skills development. Higher degree integration of primitive reflexes also positively affects behavior, memory, attention and emotional experience of these individuals. However, considering vast variability of the cerebral palsy clinical picture, it is not possible to determine a unified therapeutic approach to integration of primitive reflexes, one that could be applicable in all individuals with this diagnosis. Despite suitably selected intervention, some primitive reflexes never integrate due to brain tissue damage. They don't get under full cortical control and continue to be active in future to come.

KEYWORDS

cerebral palsy, psychomotor development, primitive reflexes, integration, therapy