

Annotation

The Bachelor thesis "Children and the internet – safety and impact of virtual reality" focuses on the relationship of smaller children, more specifically the primary school pupils, with the internet, as well as the views and educational practices of their parents. The thesis examines the influence of the virtual world on their psychological and physical health, i.e. the impact on weight, vision, and posture. Regarding psychological influences, it focuses on depression, aggression, and lack of sleep. The thesis aim is to describe children's behaviour online and to point out the potential threats posed by this virtual space. The thesis will introduce the reader to the threats that children may encounter from meeting strangers, to cyber-bullying, cyber-grooming, cyber-stalking, revealing private information, to any form of abuse. In the practical part, the aim is to find out how children and parents approach digital technologies, whether parents perceive them as a necessary evil or a positive source for the development of their children. Furthermore, the thesis points to sufficient or insufficient awareness of parents about what their children do on the internet. Whether parents check their children, or accompany them on their journey of knowledge, or, conversely, leave the children at the mercy of the internet. The thesis reveals the average daily time spent online by children, which is, however, often regulated by parents. It then addresses the issue of children's perception of the internet as an irreplaceable source of activity and how children respond to parental restrictions. Whether they are able to find other entertainment easily, or react hysterically, almost aggressively. Finally, there is the issue of safety and impact on children. If children perceive the internet and related platforms as being able to influence them in future decisions such as their professions and if children are aware of the dangers associated with the internet and thus feel threatened online.