

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis deals with the development of the rhythmic feeling of children aged 5-7 years in connection with the music element of The Good Start Method. The aim of the diploma thesis is to present the issue of connecting psychology and music for the use in pedagogy, with emphasis on The Good Start Method. Using my own research, i evaluate its theoretical basis, practical use and point out its problematic parts and try to find a possible improvement of this method.

The theoretical part deals with the description of the use of the rhythmic element of music in accordance with the development of children's motor skills and the related development of their rhythmic feelings. It also focuses on a specific methodological approach to the development of musical abilities and related motor and graphomotor skills. The work is explicitly focused on the Czech version of The Good Start Method. This section focuses on the description and objectives of this method and it also presents its pitfalls, which are further mentioned and discussed in the empirical part of the work.

In the practical part i present the realized empirical research, which focuses on one lesson of the Czech version of The Good Start Method with a song called *Náchodský zámeček*. In the beginning of the practical part i describe the chosen method of research, its goals, process and a chosen form, an empirical research, with the use of the rating method with a multidimensional scale. In the next part, i assess the suitability of the song *Náchodský zámeček* based on research into the rhythmic feeling of children in kindergarten and in the first grade of primary school. The research is focused especially on whether the use of a given song corresponds to the developmental stage of rhythmic skills children and whether The Good Start Method meets the set goals.

The last part is the evaluation research, evaluation and specific outputs drawing on specific outputs in the form of rhythmic notations to individual levels of evaluation scales, charts and graphs. The final part is a personal evaluation of the survey results, specific knowledge and recommendations based on a combination of findings of the research and of the author's practice.