

ABSTRACT

This bachelor's thesis deals with the topic of the role of teacher assistant in a primary school classroom with Montessori program, focusing on the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs and on the position of a teacher assistant in Montessori learning environment. We defined the education of pupils with special educational needs, including the most frequent diagnoses we encounter during the research. The whole paper is grounded in the legislation of the Czech Republic in the field of primary education. The paper also describes alternative education and its most common varieties and includes the characteristics of the education following Maria Montessori philosophy. This part is dedicated to the principles of the Montessori method, to the role of a Montessori teacher, to the characteristics of the classroom environment as well as to the teaching organisation, including teaching forms and methods.

The object of this research was to find out about the current situation in educating pupils with special educational needs and in their support in the alternative classroom environment. Another object was to describe the work of a teacher assistant in a Montessori school, defining the basic differences between their role in a Montessori school and in a traditional school.

The practical part of the paper describes the implementation of a qualitative research, which was carried out by means of semi-structured interviews and the method of observation. The research objects and the research questions defined by the objects were also described in the practical part. All the research goals were achieved, and all the questions were answered. The interviews were processed and divided into several categories based on coding. The paper contains an analysis of the results of the interviews and illustrations of lesson observations. In the paper conclusion the whole research results are assessed and the research questions are answered.