

A change of a school and its influence on pupils with grave hearing impairment is the topic of this thesis. For these pupils, a transfer to a different kind of school (i.e. from an ordinary to a specialized one or vice versa) can be a source of serious consequences influencing their entire personality.

Many things differ at these schools - the environment, the type of communication, the classmates. A child that is integrated to an ordinary school is usually the only hard-of-hearing pupil in the school. On the contrary, all the students at a specialised school are similar and the teachers are experienced in treatment of such children.

Specific needs of disabled students are met in communication and the whole process of education. The disadvantage of these schools is that they are only in big towns and children from distant villages and towns are often at a boarding house during the week.

The aim of this thesis is to describe how a change of school was retrospectively perceived by those who had experienced it themselves. I have focused especially on the following areas: how the respondents went through the change of a school, how they felt at both schools and how the change has influenced their identity.