

ABSTRACT

This diploma thesis on the topic *Benefits and risks of home sharing in the care of children with autism spectrum disorders* is focused on children with autism spectrum disorders, their families and especially on the new home sharing service. This is a form of relaxation stay, which regularly takes place in the household of the so-called host.

The work is divided into two parts. The first chapter of the theoretical part summarizes the existing historical facts from the description of autism spectrum disorders by Leo Kanner and Hans Asperger. It also presents current knowledge in the field of aetiology, diagnostics and classification options. The third chapter is devoted to a family and a child with ASD. The last chapter of the theoretical part presents shared care home sharing. It describes its beginnings in Ireland and its gradual expansion to other countries around the world, including the Czech Republic. The course of pairing and individual phases, without which this service cannot get along, is also described in more detail.

The practical part is based on qualitative research. The original intention of the author was to map the experience with the benefits and risks of the home sharing service directly in the primary and host families. However, both of these groups are parts of the Home sharing pilot project, which made it impossible to address selected families. Due to this complication, the research was modified and the organizations that provide home sharing or are about to provide it (more precisely the representatives of these organizations) were chosen as respondents.

The findings of the research show that home sharing can strengthen the insufficient capacity of current relief services, and above all it offers a place for children with ASD, who could be rejected by their social services due to their specific behaviour and needs.