

ABSTRACT

Families that take care of children with autistic spectrum disorder contend with everyday mental strain while looking after their child. Situation is even more complicated for lack of social services suitable for autistic spectrum disorder. It forces families to rely on themselves. In response to lack of services in the Czech Republic a new shared care service called homesharing was established by initiative “Naděje pro děti úplňku”. Homesharing is a voluntary service and works as follows. An instructed host family looks after a child with autistic spectrum disorder at their place at regular intervals. The service enables an essential time to a rest to primary family.

The objective of my diploma thesis called Shared care for children and pupils with autism spectrum disorders is to investigate the experience of host and primary families within the homesharing service. Theoretical part of my diploma thesis describes issues (social services, shared care) linked to autistic spectrum disorders on the basis of reference books. Practical part of my work contains qualitative research, specifically semi-conducted interview. Respondents were members of the primary and host families who were integrated into the project for more than a year. The work comes to the conclusion that homesharing brings benefits to both sides.