

ABSTRACT

The thesis deals with communication interactions in Montessori schools in Czechia. It describes the specific Montessori approach and the basic principles and tradition of Montessori education. It deals with the concepts of communication and trust elaborated in more detail. The thesis aims at observing how respectful/partner communication is applied in Montessori schools, as this communication helps to build pupils' responsibility and the level of trust. Respectful communication is one of the crucial principles of Montessori pedagogy and is based on the concept of “to respect and to be respected”. The thesis lists different respectful modes of communication and the communicative interactions, that build mutual trust between the participants in the communicative acts, used in Montessori schools. A study of the contemporary literature is combined with the knowledge gained ethnographically during a short self-conducted semi-participant observation. The observation was carried out in two Montessori schools – one located in Prague and one in a medium-sized town in Northern Bohemia. The results showed that the respectful communication observed in both Montessori schools builds responsibility and increases the level of trust between the participants in the communicative acts.