

Abstract

The aim of this diploma thesis is to find out the attitudes of social workers who work with children as a target group towards the Montessori approach. This thesis deals with what social workers think about this specific approach, what they think about it and where they see the space for its use in their professional practice.

In the theoretical basis of the work, 3 basic topics are presented: social work, Montessori approach and attitudes. The part on social work deals with defining social work and the profession of a social worker, including the legislative framework, it also deals with the specification of social work with children and the introduction of institutions where it is possible to work with children within this profession (e.g. Authority for the social and legal protection of children, low-threshold facilities for children and youth, children's crisis centres, etc.). The section on Montessori is devoted to this method and the basic pillars on which it stands. A sub-chapter is also dedicated to the founder Maria Montessori and the origin of the method itself. The last theoretical area describes attitudes, their classification and answers the questions of how attitudes are formed, what they are good for, what leads to their change and how they can be measured.

Research is processed in the empirical part. The research is based on 7 semi-structured interviews with social workers who work with children as a target group in their professional practice. The IPA method was used to analyse the interviews. From the analysis of the interviews, 3 main themes emerged: the Montessori approach in social work, a respectful approach and applicability. The respondents described their attitudes towards the Montessori approach in terms of cognition, emotions and application of the approach in practice. All respondents agreed on the lack of information about the Montessori method. They do not exclude the possible use of this approach in social work, but they see its applicability in different ways, in connection with specific areas and institutions. The attitudes of individual respondents are also based on their personal experience with this method. The research showed that social workers perceive the Montessori method as a pedagogical method and see its applicability in social work rather in facilities where there is more space to pay attention to the client individually (low-threshold and therapeutic facilities). However, all respondents agreed that the respectful approach with which Montessori works is intrinsically linked to the work of a social worker, where it is necessary to approach each client individually.