

Abstract

This master thesis is based on a five-month research of a relationship between the children and material culture of a forest kindergarten. The main focus of the work is casted on the analysis of the significance of material objects during the children's information internalization by means of the sensual experience. The evocative role of concrete material items that are presented in everyday life of children in the forest kindergarten is shown in this thesis. The children senses are activated by material items and these items serve as an impulse for the children learning process. The work also contains an analysis of the important objects from the children's point of view.

The conventional anthropological methods were used within the research in this master thesis - the participant observation in the forest kindergarten and the non-formal interviews with the kindergarten staff. Moreover, the picture analysis method was used to identify the material items having an important role for the children in the forest kindergarten. The collected photodocumentation is employed to illustrate the specific environment and activities in the forest kindergarten.

Keywords: forest kindergarten, material culture, sensual experience, learning process