

#### Abstrakt:

This thesis deals with the development of defense mechanisms of children in younger school age. The theoretical part discusses the history and development of the concept of defense mechanisms, provides an overview of the diagnostic methods, which are useful to identify defense mechanisms in children and reports on the current state of research of defense mechanisms and their development in children and adolescents. At the end of the theoretical part, the concepts of „defense“ based mostly on gestalt psychotherapy perspective are discussed.

In the practical part, the children of the research group in younger school age were tested with The Fairy Tale Test and The Thematic Apperception Test. The results are discussed with regard to age, sex, intelligence and also considering the results of other research methods. Data based on psychoanalytical concepts are compared with results of the questionnaire based on gestalt psychoterapy theories of contact cycle and contact styles. Two parents (or the closest adults) evaluated their children by the questionnaire and inventory of typical contact styles.

The results suggest the existence of certain connections, these research methods also complement each other and serves together as more comprehensive view of the child's personality, a way of its interacting with the enviroment and the level of the maturity of defense mechanisms.

Key words: defense mechanisms, The Fairy Tale Test, The Thematic Apperception Test, Gestalt psychotherapy, children of younger school age