The work has two parts: theoretical and empirical. The theoretical part deals with the development, structure and function of teeth, and also deals with the causes of tooth caries and its complications. The next chapter focuses on the prevention of dental caries, oral hygiene, on the importance of preventive inspections, and on a proper diet. The members of the dental team are also introduced here. The final chapter of the theoretical part is focused on education and its importance.

The aim of the empirical part is to assess the awareness of parents regarding the prevention of dental caries of their children and to evaluate the effectiveness of preventive dental care. The empirical part is based on a survey conducted in randomly selected kindergartens and primary schools in Prague 12 and in children's dental office located there. The respondents of the survey are parents of children aged from 3 to 14 years attending their dentists in Prague 12. Our statistical analysis is based on 204 questionnaires. The results suggest that the parents taking part in our survey are unable to fully comply with the recommendations mentioned below, and that the effectiveness of the preventive dental care of children who attend their dentists in Prague 12 is not sufficient. In conclusion, the thesis presents a discussion of related issues and recommendations for practice.

Key words: milk teeth, dental caries, oral hygiene, regimen, prevention, dental team