

**Abstract:**

The bachelor's thesis deals with the importance of preschool children's play for mental development. The main target of the theoretical part is create the most comprehensive overview of current knowledge on the topic. The first part provides general theoretical definition games. Here I present various definitions, classifications and theory of play. Another part is devoted to a detailed description of the importance of the play for the mental development. I focus here on the cognitive, motor, motivational-voluntary, emotional and social development. Since the preschool period begins to appear cooperative play, I consider it important to include a chapter on playmates. Parents, grandparents, siblings, peers and imaginary friend. This chapter describes the importance of the participation and style of play of playmates in the preschool children's play. Conclusions of the thesis is a research project focused on the parents play with preschool children.