

Abstract

Play with toy car from activity psychology approach

This master thesis is aimed at play of preschool children with toy cars. A theoretical base for my research is the activity psychology perspective, which states that play is the leading activity of development in a preschool period. Following this thought, in my thesis I tried to find out, how can the preschool development be led by play with toy cars.

My thesis contains theoretical and empirical part. In theoretical part I focus on a preschool period and the role of play in it. In this part I also distinguished the activity psychology approach and its concept of play. In empirical part I introduce my own qualitative research aimed at analysis of car toys observed in preschool facility.

Based on analysis of play activities to partial units I discovered that toy car play provided motoric, cognitive and social development. What seemed to be important in all three areas was that children purposely complicated their games, which created higher demands for their skills and abilities. Children in their games impersonated various social roles, which included the whole system of activities and relations to other social roles. The rules of their games were mostly implicit and were connected to activity or role which a child impersonated.