

## **ABSTRACT**

The dissertation discusses the roles of animals in children's representations. Its chief aim is to find out what things children perceive to be important about animals, which children's needs can be satisfied by animals and if children's sex and age determine the way in which they perceive animals. The thesis mainly consists of a qualitative analysis of data from a realised research, which took place at a elementary school with children in three different classes (first, fourth and seventh year). The principal method was a dialogue based on a questionnaire which I had compiled, the additional method was the test of an enchanted family drawing.