

ABSTRACT

The bachelor thesis focuses on the development of preschool children and on some of the special characteristics of this period. It examines the possibilities of personal and social development through the methods and techniques of drama in education. More specifically, it focuses on empathetic skills in the personal area, and cooperative skills in the social area. The aim of this thesis is to evaluate the usability of chosen drama methods and techniques in teaching preschoolers. The thesis consists of a theoretical and a practical part.

The theoretical part discusses the development of preschool children. It describes the developmental period in question, and outlines children's way of thinking and experiencing. The role of the family in socializing is mentioned, but the main focus is put on socializing outside of the family. It points out the important role kindergartens play in the lives of Czech preschoolers; offering them a variety of collective play, and meeting their need to establish first social contacts. Play is understood as an important and unsubstitutable need of preschool children. The final part presents possible drama methods and techniques.

The practical part focuses on social and personal development of preschoolers through drama methods and techniques. The programme in it wants to answer the question whether it is possible to influence and support cooperation in a newly established group, and at the same time develop individual personality of each child, through drama methods and techniques. The results of this programme are recorded in a table with a comment of individual children, the results at the beginning and the end of the programme can be compared. The final part analyzes the programme and its outcomes.