

This work deals with the families of children with disorders of the autistic spectrum, focusing on their siblings. The first part outlines the theoretical data concerning this issue. This part principally focuses on the issue of the families of children with autism, how it affects them, and the difficulties that can arise when there is a child with autism in a family. Another topic examined is the presence of other children in the family and the effect a sibling with autism has on them, including the professional or non-professional means of assisting these children or of overcoming any difficulties.

The research part presents the results of the investigations. In order to achieve the aims of this thesis the author has used a combination of a quantitative and qualitative approach - specifically interviews with siblings, questionnaire surveys and monitoring. The families involved in the research are first briefly presented, followed the opinions of parents on the theme of the other children in the family, sibling relationships and the associated worries and desires. The main part focuses on a description of the most important aspects affecting the siblings of a child with autism. The final part then describes the currently available means of helping the siblings of children with autism in the Czech Republic