

## **ABSTRACT**

The main topic of the Master's thesis are the possibilities of development of communication abilities during the preschool age through extracurricular activities. The research study is qualitative and its goal is to determine the effect of group speech therapy sessions on the communication abilities of children attending a mainstream preschool.

The Master's thesis is divided into two parts – a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part provides basic information about the overall development of children from the time of birth until reaching school age. It describes the development of children's motor skills, the development of sensory perception (visual and auditory perception) and the development of communication abilities. Each part also contains information about the possibilities of stimulating the individual areas of development. The theoretical part also defines and describes impaired communication ability. The thesis deals in more detail with the types of impaired communication ability which occur frequently in population. Based on the research study, a description of impaired communication ability in hearing-impaired people is provided.

The practical part consists of a qualitative research study. The goal of the study is to determine whether group speech therapy sessions affect the development of communication abilities in preschool children. A secondary goal of the research study is the development of twelve group session plans which focus on problem areas of communication abilities in the study participants. The overview of problem areas is based on initial diagnostic assessments of communication abilities. Assessments were carried out individually for each participant.

## **KEYWORDS**

communication ability, impaired communication ability, speech therapy, preschool education, extracurricular activities