

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the development of communication skills in children with autistic spectrum disorder. The aim of this work is to explain the development of these skills by Verbal Behavior of Applied Behavioral Analysis (VB ABA), specifically in the field of children's request (manding).

The thesis contains a theoretical and practical part. The theoretical part is focused on the description of the basic principles of the Applied Behavioral Analysis as well as the approach Applied Behavioral Analysis - Verbal Behavior which is based on this science. In more detail, the thesis explains the manding technique and the principles of motivation, whose understanding is essential for this technique and for all VB ABA intervention.

Author's research follows the progress in the manding of two children with autistic spectrum disorder during the eight-month VB ABA intervention. Also the thesis analyzes the factors that could have influenced the teaching of mands, in particular the role the child's motivation in the effective development of manding skills.

A certain section of the practical part of the thesis is extracted into the annexes as a non-public part of the work in order to preserve children's anonymity. The extraction of sensitive data into the worksheets is made possible by the Dean's Decree No. 73/2017 Article 12.

Keywords

Applied behavioral analysis (ABA), verbal behavior (VB), mand, motivating operation, reinforcement, interests