

ABSTRACT

This Diploma Thesis is designed as a case study based on qualitative research focusing on searching the options of support on pre-school children development in the environment of shelters for mothers or families with children. In the theoretical part starting points are presented regarding the issues of family, shelter, school maturity and readiness as well as an issue of constituent functions, possibilities of their diagnostics and development. The initial part of the empiric part describes methodological processes and a research plan is presented. Followed by research report regarding the study in twelve shelters in Prague. One of the research goals was to design a simple manual of development for children aged 3–6 which might have been used as a support for social workers in those shelters. The research tools included questionnaires and interviews among social workers. The questionnaires helped to map the size of shelters, length of stay and characteristic of their clients, approach of institutions to the development of pre-school and school age children as well as the attitudes of social workers towards such development of pre-school children. Interviews with social workers assisted with orientation in the issue of families in shelter, semi-structured interview allowed a feedback from the pilot methodology which was given to one of the shelters. This tool was ascertained by social workers as suitable for pursuing support of development of those pre-school children staying in shelters.

KEY WORDS

Constituent functions, development of pre-school children, diagnostic, family, school maturity and readiness, shelter.