

## **ABSTRACT**

The bachelors thesis is of a special pedagogical character focusing on speech therapy. It deals with the development of communication skills in children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The thesis goal is to introduce ASD issue; communication in general and with regard to people with ASD and with augmentative and alternative communication. The theoretical part is divided into three parts. The first part defines autism spectrum disorders, deals briefly with the causes, division and diagnosis. The second part describes communication as such, speech development and impaired communication skills. The third part deals with communication of people with autism spectrum disorders, speech development and these people communication specifics. It also mentions the possibilities offered by augmentative and alternative communications. The research investigation focuses on how ASD children communication is developed in a special kindergarten, or in a special class intended exclusively for children with ASD. The research's aim is to find out how and by what methods communication is developed and how these methods influence the progress in these children's communication. A qualitative data collection method was used for the research, specifically a semi-structured interview. Interviews were conducted with five teachers, processed using open coding, the obtained data were interpreted by the "card unloading" technique. The research's results shows that communication is developed in the most suitable way for each child, the emphasis is on at least partial communication and understanding. Methods and communication systems focused on pictures and exchange as well as those focused on symbols and gestures are used. The children's progress depends not only on the appropriate development method and the chosen communication system, but also on other factors such as the disability degree or the child's home work with the parents. The bachelor thesis and research goals were achieved.