

ABSTRACT

The bachelor's thesis, Development of communication ability in children with Down syndrome, is a work of special educational nature aiming to acquaint readers with the issue of communication in children with Down syndrome. The theoretical part is based on Czech and foreign literature analysis and information found in electronic sources. It is divided into two chapters. The first chapter is dealing with communication in general and the development of speech and language skills in intact children. The second one is devoted to Down syndrome, the author is dealing with its definition terminology and etiology. It also elaborates on impaired communication skills of children with Down syndrome, speech therapy intervention and alternative and augmentative communication. The empirical part of this bachelor thesis is included in the third chapter. The main goal of the research is to analyze the development of communication ability in children with Down syndrome, partial goals and research questions have been set based on that. Set goals were achieved thanks to a research survey of a qualitative nature using the following methods: analysis of anamnestic data, analysis of available documents, additional semi-structured interviews with parents and observations. The outcome of this research is the elaboration of case studies of children with Down syndrome focused on the development of speech, language and communication. At the end of the bachelor's thesis, the author summarizes the research survey results and suggests recommendations for special educational practice.

KEYWORDS

speech, language and communication development, communication disability, Down syndrome, alternative and augmentative communication