

The work focuses on the development of the conception of death perceived by children attending basic schools. The target was to identify differences in the emotional value of the term 'death' displayed by children at the stage of concrete or formal operations as the case may be. In order to achieve this goal a research has been made the objects of which were 7-year-old children (i.e. the first class) and 12-year-old children (fifth class), both attending the same Prague-based basic school. In total, 30 children (15 of each category) participated; in each group the number of girls exceeded that of boys (8:7). The research is based on the Colour Semantic Differential Test. It is evident from the results that 7-year-old children perceive the term 'death' as an ambivalent word while 12-year-old children understand 'death' as a word having a negative connotation.