

Abstract

This thesis aims at description of basic eating habits of children with multiple disabilities and mapping methods for acquisition of these habits. The thesis then describes the physiological way of eating as well as individual parts of the involved digestive system.

The objective is to describe, on the basis of contemporary domestic and world literature, individual learning strategies of most elementary eating habits, like chewing or swallowing, and compare these theoretical knowledge with my practical experiences acquired by working as a personal assistant for children with multiple disabilities in their home and school environment. Special attention is paid to orofacial stimulation in relation to the acquisition of individual eating habits and the possibility of using the concept of basal stimulation to improve their quality. The paper proceeds with alternative ways of nutrition for the persons with multiple disabilities, respectively percutaneous endoscopic gastroscopy and nasogastric tube.

The thesis includes three case studies of children with multiple disabilities documenting the way for increasing the quality of lives of people with multiple disabilities by using treatment methods; special attention is paid on the food intake.