

Abstract

This thesis deals with breeding and visiting programs with animals (options, reasons, positives and negatives, evaluation of parents and staff) in kindergartens in the two most populous regions in the Czech Republic. Further it provides an in depth analysis of influence of selected invertebrate animals on preschool children in two specified kindergartens and looks into parent's attitudes and evaluation of animal breeding in the chosen classes.

It is a combined empirical applied research whose methods are directly participated unstructured observation of individuals or groups, video recording, explorative method – questionnaire (for the children's parents in the class and for the kindergartens) and analysis of qualitative data from the questionnaires and evaluation of the results. The thesis is divided into three parts according to the target group on which the research is focused.

Both the results and the specified literature confirm the importance of continuous presence of animals in the proximity of preschool aged children in several areas of their personality development (emotions, environmental feelings, communication, motivation, responsibility, thoughtfulness, concentration, attention, senses, interest, calming down, cognition – the cycle of life and animal characteristics). Staff and parents however often don't act in the interest of his or her child or they even provide an opposite example. In many cases occurring issues surrounding breeding and visiting programs with animals can be addressed in advance of selecting a suitable animal for the specific conditions in the preschool facilities.