

Title:

Augmentative and alternative communication by the individuals with pervasive developmental disorder

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Abstract

The monograph is a survey of the current approaches to Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDDs). First difficulties linked to this diagnosis are analysed, then the author explains prospective causative factors, possible interventions and prognoses. The differences between intervention based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and intervention based on Person Centred Approach (PCA) are emphasized.

In this diploma thesis furthermore the new methods of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) are introduced. People with PDDs may prosper from those methods, the author argues.

The theoretical texts are complemented by the practical results of a longitudinal research enquiry – case study. One person diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorders Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) was put through intervention based on Person Centred Approach (PCA) in this case study. His verbal communication was supported consequently by the AAC method- computer program with vocal output.

The information gained by this thesis is intended for use by professionals and parents for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of communication with children challenged by PDDs.