

ABSTRACT

The diploma work titled "The parents', teachers' and day care center staff view on possibility of placing two-year-old children in nursery schools" analyzes the specifics and problems of today's families with young children. It defines the concept of early childhood, describes a child's development at toddler age, and also characterizes today's toddler. The work is dedicated to the maturity of children for entry into nursery schools. Furthermore the diploma work describes the history and current problems of the care for children younger than three years in the Czech Republic in comparison with representative European countries. The diploma work is a survey focused on three categories of respondents' views on the possibility of inclusion of children from two years of age in nursery schools as a plan for future solution of the issue of systemic agenda of day care center for children under three years of age in the Czech Republic. The aim of the research was to find out how the surveyed parents, nursery workers and preschool teachers perceive the possibility of inclusion of two-year-old children in pre-primary educational institutions and whether today's two-year-old children are ripe for entry into nursery schools. In the practical part of the diploma work there were also compared the personal attitudes among respondents from each category.

Based on the responses of the research sample it can be stated that two-year-old children are ripe and ready for attendance in nursery schools, this opinion prevailed with the day care center staff. The respondents from the category of nursery school teachers and parents tend to agree that two-year-old children are immature and unready for attendance in nursery schools. However, the results can not be generalized with respect to the research sample. The research results point out the negatives and positives perceived by the respondents as for the possibility of inclusion of two-year-old children in nursery schools. Evaluation of the survey describes the skills and abilities in two-year-old children that can be affected positively as well as negatively by the attendance in nursery school. The research identifies the conditions that respondents consider suitable for the education of children under three years of age in the environment of nursery schools. The practical part of the diploma work compares the detected opinions of the parents with the opinions of day care center staff and nursery school teachers on suitability of age heterogeneous classes, nursery school regimes, material and personal conditions. The respondents suggested alternative, and according to them, more suitable solutions of daily institutional care for two-year-old children. The work demonstrated that the surveyed respondents prefer the opinion that children under two

years of age should have rather maternal and family care than institutional care, but there is a small part of the research sample, which favours institutional care.