

ABSTRACT OF DIPLOMA THESIS

Author: Bc. Veronika Zdeňková

Supervisor: Mgr. Petra Dvořáková

Advisor: Mgr. Eliška Haškovcová

Title: Occupational Therapy Screening of Sensory Processing in Children with Perinatal Load in Preschool Age

Abstract: Sensory Processing Disorders (SPD) have their origin in altered function of central nervous system. Children with SPD have difficulty to process sensory information and act in a proper way. Sensory Processing Disorders permeate all areas of an individual's perception and behaviour and have a significant impact on the quality of life of the child and his/her family. Children born prematurely are reported to be at higher risk of developing some form of SPD. This thesis focuses on the association between SPD and perinatal load. It is focused on the difficulties faced by children with SPD and their impact on further development, particularly in the preschool age. The theoretical part provides an thorough overview of the issues mentioned above. The practical part focuses on the design of an examination protocol to capture SPD in children with perinatal load in preschool age. The use of the proposed examination protocol is tested in six concrete patients with perinatal load. The results are then interpreted in the form of reduced case studies, which are primarily aimed at assessing the level of sensory processing. The examination protocol consists of the SPM sensory questionnaire assessing sensory modulation and the SOSI-M standardized test assessing the level of motor performance (vestibular and proprioceptive system function, motor planning and postural control). An important part of each case report is an occupational therapy report of the examination, prepared primarily for parents or teachers, containing an interpretation of the results including suggested recommendations. The proposed examination protocol proved to be a suitable tool to capture sensory processing difficulties in this group of children. Two of the patients examined were found to have a sensory integration disorder as a result of the examination.

Key words: sensory integration, sensory processing disorders, prematurity, preschool age