

## **Abstract**

The aim of the bachelor thesis was to explore how parents communicate with their children about death. In my research I would approach this question from the perspective of two basic situations, namely families where there has been a death of a family member, close relative or pet and families where they have not had this experience.

The theoretical part is devoted to a brief introduction to the topic of death. The content of the literature review part of the thesis is an understanding of the different stages of a child's cognitive development in relation to the perception of death, which is essential for communication with parents. It is to the stages of cognitive development that much of the thesis is devoted, supplemented by individual factors that may influence communication with the child on the topic of death. Key chapters also include the child's understanding of the biological functioning of the body, which determines whether the child is able to understand certain components in the overall understanding of the topic of death. Furthermore, the thesis mentions important factors such as funeral rituals, beliefs and social media that may influence children's communication about death.

The empirical part of the thesis deals with the research design for which a qualitative design was chosen. The research population will consist of parents, who will be interviewed using semi-structured interviews to explore how their communication with their children on the topic of death took place. The sample size should be at least 24 parents who will be divided into two groups. Approximately half of the parents with experience of a death in the family and the other half of parents where there has been no death in the immediate family since their child was born. I anticipate the expected contribution of the research findings to society in further exploring parent-child communication on the topic of death.

**Key words:** Death; communication in the family; children's perception of death; child cognitive development