

ABSTRACT

The aim of the thesis is to verify how the choice of methods, procedures and organizational forms of teaching can improve the classroom climate in a small classroom setting, using the example of a combined 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classroom.

The first chapter of this thesis deals with small class schools. The history of small class schools, their specifics and the reasons why they are still maintained as an important alternative to larger schools are examined. The next section looks at individualization and differentiation in teaching and their implementation in the small class school setting. The second section focuses on classroom climate. It examines what factors influence classroom climate and how it can be measured and evaluated. Next, the chapter examines the adaptation of the new student in the classroom, a key process for successful integration into the new environment. The third chapter analyses the role of the teacher in a small classroom school. It describes what competences a teacher of a small class school should have and how he/she should approach teaching. Furthermore, teaching methods and organisational forms of teaching suitable for a small classroom environment are defined. The conclusion of the theoretical part focuses on assessment in teaching, which also has an impact on the classroom climate.

In the practical part, I investigated how the classroom climate changed in a combined 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classroom in a small school during the first semester when the teacher started to use activation and complex teaching methods and chose organizational forms of work that promote cooperation and collaboration among students. I chose the MCI questionnaire and sociometric questions as the main research methods. These methods were supplemented by observation and interview with the teacher. Changes in climate were ascertained by comparing the research results at the beginning and end of the term. Based on the data collected, the pre-determined research questions were evaluated to fulfill the objective of this thesis.