

## ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the question of inclusion of canistherapy activities for healthy children into the program of kindergardens. The aim of the theoretical part was to describe the specifics of the development of pre-school age on different levels, characterise of the basic terms from the field of canistherapy and note the general rules ensuring the safety and hygienic environment.

The research took place focusing on two different age groups. The research shows differences in the levels of knowledge, reactions to a live animal and the development of relationships. Different reactions and experiences further show the need of inclusion of all specifics of different ages when planning the therapeutical activities. During the research there were identified the benefits of canistherapy within the development of children in line with the aims and outcomes of the educational program for pre-school education. To carry out the experiment, the methods of observation, interviews and active research were applied. The verification took place through the realisation of prepared canistherapy activities with the following evaluation of goals and achieved competencies. The results show positive effect of canistherapies on the entire development of children and the support of the learning skills and ability to obtain skills in different fields. This thesis brings an insight into the use of canistherapy as an effective tool in education.

## KEYWORDS

canistherapy, children, relationships, activities, animal, bitch