

## **ABSTRACT OF BACHELOR THESIS**

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**Title:**

Hippotherapy in occupational therapy for preschool children with neurodevelopmental disorders

**Abstract:**

Hipporehabilitation is a rehabilitation method that aims to improve the health of the patient through direct contact with the horse. In this rehabilitation method, the horse is the main tool for achieving therapeutic goals, which affects not only the patient's locomotor system but also his psychological state. For children with neurodevelopmental disorders, it can be a suitable motivation for proper movement and support for their psychomotor development, which is often delayed in pediatric patients with these disorders. The aim of the bachelor's thesis is to map the possibilities of using elements of hippotherapy in occupational therapy intervention for children of preschool age with neurodevelopmental disorders. The work is divided into a theoretical part and a practical part. The theoretical part is devoted to the description and principles of the hipporehabilitation method and its field of hippotherapy in physiotherapy and occupational therapy (HTFE). But it also deals with current problems with the verification of the effectiveness of this method and with its standardization. The practical part is focused on three selected children of preschool age with cerebral palsy, which disrupts the course of their daily lives. For these selected patients, the short-term and long-term benefits of hippotherapeutic interventions are described based on the established goals. While long-term goals were met in all three patients, short-term goals were not achieved for one of the patients. In addition to the pre-determined goal areas, changes in the health status of children were also observed in other areas. The obtained results indicate that this method of rehabilitation can be advantageously used to improve the overall health status of preschool children with neurodevelopmental disorders.

**Key words:** equine assisted therapy; hippotherapy; neurodevelopmental disorders; cerebral palsy; preschool children

