ABSTRACT

The aim of the bachelor thesis is to describe the approach of the errorless learning method for children and pupils with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in the development of communication skills. The theoretical part defines the legislative framework of education of individuals with autism spectrum disorders in the Czech Republic, defining the specifics and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders and evidence-based practice in the approach to individuals diagnosed with ASD. Furthermore, the unique communication characteristics of individuals with autism spectrum disorder are examined, with a detailed description of verbal behavior and an overview of selected intervention programs aimed at enhancing communication skills in individuals with ASD.

The empirical part of the bachelor thesis aims to present the method of errorless learning in the development of communication of children and pupils with autism spectrum disorder. The investigation is developed in the form of qualitative research and is carried out through case studies of two female participants diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. It describes the application of the errorless learning method through specific examples. A participant semi-structured observation technique is used to obtain data for the case studies and to analyse data collected during a behavioural intervention aimed at developing verbal behaviour.

Based on the data obtained, the way in which functional communication develops in individuals with autism spectrum disorder through the errorless learning method is described. It also describes the difference between the development of communication in vocal form and in sign form. Conclusions based on the investigation cannot be generalized due to the small research sample. Individuals with ASD should consult a certified behavior analyst for individual communication development.

KEYWORDS

autism spectrum disorder, errorless learning, functional communication, applied behavior analysis