

ABSTRACT

The aim of this diploma thesis is to research the area of family resiliency of children with autism spectrum disorder. The theoretical part deals with the resiliency phenomenon in general, stressful situations and strategies for their management by so-called coping mechanisms. This part is followed by family resilience, which provides brief description of the concept of the family, family resiliency itself and then informs readers about the specific models of family resiliency, out of which the most well-known concept comes from the McCubbins. The third chapter of the diploma thesis focuses on a family of a child with a disability. This part of the diploma thesis explains how the family responds to the child's disability, what adaptation phases they go through, and also reflects factors that can have positive impact on the adaptation of the family in a difficult life situation. The last chapter of the theoretical part focuses on the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders. It helps the readers understand the topic of autism spectrum disorders, their manifestations, partial diagnoses and also the effects of autism spectrum disorders on the family of an autistic child. The empirical part of this thesis aims to find out and map what is the resiliency of families of children with autism spectrum disorder and what factors can affect the resiliency of families of children with autism. In order to map the resiliency of families of children with autism spectrum disorders, it was necessary to use a questionnaire survey. Specifically, we used the Family Hardiness Index (FHI) questionnaire which measures family resiliency. Moreover, we supplemented the FHI with an additional questionnaire, which contains demographic data about the respondent and open-ended questions mapping areas of interest for my research.

KEYWORDS

Autism spectrum disorders; Family; Resiliency; Family resiliency