

Using a questionnaire, problem solving strategies of children aged 9-12 were studied. The hypothesis that communication in the family influences effectiveness and strategy of problem solving was stated and studied. Data was collected on two primary schools in Prague. Out of all the usable questionnaires, there were 58 boys and 68 girls. 89 children stated, they had gone through a crisis situation in the last half a year, most of the problems were with (in this order, beginning with the most often) school achievements, friends, classmates, parents. In choosing help, children most often turned to (again in this order) mother, friends, father, wider family. 54% stated, that the sought help did help them, whereas 17% stated it did not. Even after repeated seeking of help, 15.4% of the children said, they didn't manage to solve the problem. If they would experience a crisis now, they would turn to the following people: mother, father, friends.

It wasn't proved, that communication in the family affects problem solving. The comparison of happy and unhappy children gives some indirect results. The unhappy children turn to themselves in their problems and don't seek help. This strategy of theirs doesn't help, it doesn't lead to successful problem solving. This supports the notion, that proximity of a close, trusted person is crucial for children's problem solving.