

During last couple of decades, the paid child care has become one of the central issues of feminist research. The agencies mediating child care are relatively the new actor in child care arrangements in the Czech Republic. This MA thesis argues that they not only fill the gap in the market by offering a child care. Above all, far from providing the simple supply that reacts to the demand on the market, the agencies create the demand for specific care. Drawing upon qualitative research conducted with owners of these agencies, the text looks into the ways how the child care is constructed. The analysis consists of two parts. In the first one the agencies are understood as expert systems generating specific trust. In the second part, the issues of qualified, specialized, and professionalized care are discussed. The thesis aims at showing that child care in the agencies is deconstructed as a natural female activity and is reconstructed as a gendered activity requiring particular skills that are submitted to professional screening.