

Abstract

The topics of this bachelor thesis are: personal characteristics, sibling relationships and cognitive, psychosocial and emotional development of siblings of disabled children. The aforementioned disabled children are primarily children with mental retardation and children within the autistic spectrum. This thesis focuses on the reaction of siblings and parents to the diagnosis of the disabled child and its effect in the quality of the family life. A number of studies have shown that siblings of children with disabilities are less adaptable than siblings of healthy children. At the same time, presence of a disabled child increases the probability of risk development and behavioural problems. The research proposed is aimed at comparing personal characteristics of siblings of autistic children and of siblings of children with mental retardation with a control group of siblings of healthy children aged eight to twelve years. The research is further interested in finding differences (if any) based on the gender of siblings of autistic children and siblings of children with mental retardation. Children's Personality Questionnaire (CPQ) will be used for the research.

Keywords

siblings, autism, mental retardation, development