

Analysis of education of pupils with mental disabilities focusing on the application of alternative methods

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Me and my course description

Masaryk University

- Faculty of Education

Department of

- Special Needs Education

Fields of Study

- Doctoral Degree Program

- Supervisor: doc.PaedDr. Miroslava Bartoňová, Ph.D.

My specialization

- Education of people with mental disabilities

My focus

- Work and friendship with people with Down syndrome

ISSUES OF MY COURSE

related to the MU Faculty of Education Research

- Integration of people with disabilities in education, employment and social life of the majority
- Opportunities in education of people with Down syndrome which can raise and support their development, integration and autonomy
- Special methods for the development of communication and cognitive functions of people with Down syndrome

Summary of my thesis

Research focused on the experiences of parents and teachers of children with Down syndrome using alternative methods for support communication and cognitive functions

Fundamental terms

- Down syndrome
- Integration
- Education
- Parents
- Teachers
- Cognitive functions
(thinking, perception, memory, attention, communication)

Summary of my thesis

I. Part:

Quantitative part of research using questionnaires

- analysis of the experiences and views of parents using alternative methods in education of their children with DS
- analysis of the experiences and opinions of teachers using alternative methods in education of pupils with DS

II. Part:

Qualitative part of research in direct work with children with DS

- Research describing use Feuerstein's methods for education of people with DS

Summary of my thesis

Aims

- Determine which alternative methods are most used for support the development of children with DS
- Describe the experience, advantages and disadvantages of using each methods
- Focus on the views of parents and teachers
- Describe the use and impact of Feuerstein's method for development of communication and cognitive functions of people with DS

Summary of my thesis

Research methods

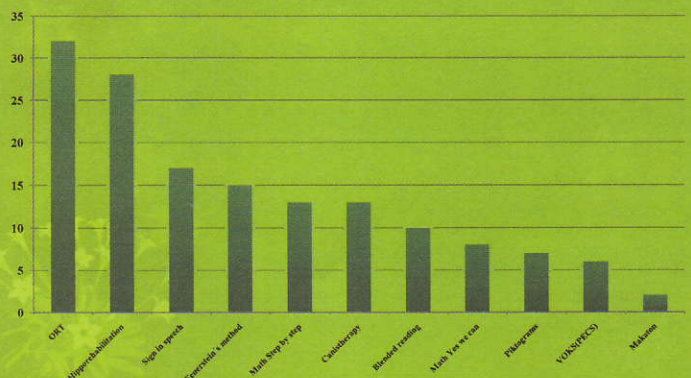
Quantitative research

- Analyses of documents
- Questionnaires
 - Teachers
 - Parents
- Evaluation and summary of research results

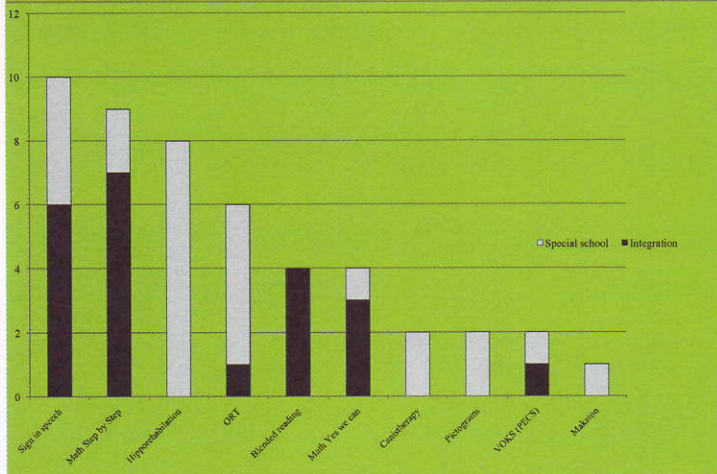
Qualitative research

- Research describes use and impact of Feuerstein's method
 - observing people with DS when working with this method
 - description of the influence of method in communication, thinking, memory, perception, attention and orientation in time, space and emotions
 - evaluation of the influence of Feuerstein's method and description of the possibilities of use for people with DS

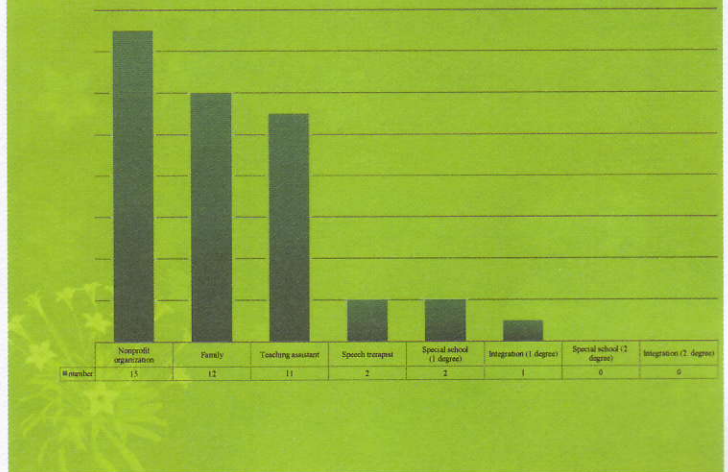
Alternative methods used by families of children with DS in the Czech Republic:



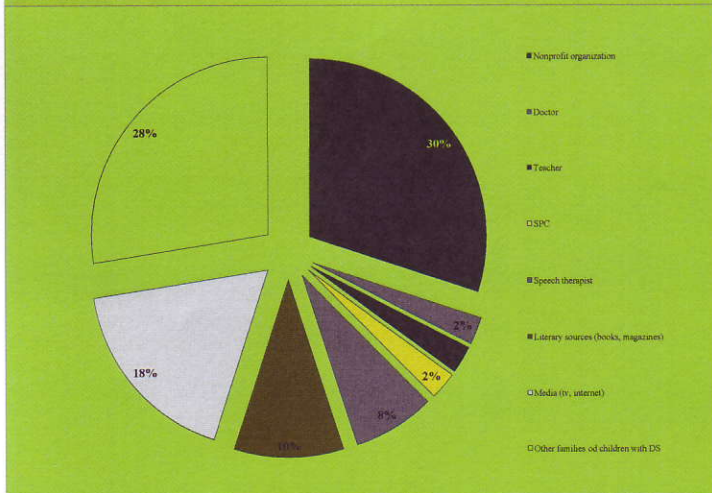
Alternative methods used in elementary schools as part of education for children with Down syndrome:



Involvement of alternative methods:



Sources of information about alternative methods for families:



Current czech resources

- SELIKOWITZ, M.: *Downův syndrom*. Praha: Portál, 2005. 197 s. ISBN 80-7178-973-9.
- ŠUSTROVÁ, M.: *Diagnóza: Downov syndróm*. Bratislava: Spoločnosť Downovho syndrómu v Slovenskej republike, 2004. 240 s. ISBN 80-8046-259-3.
- BARTOŇOVÁ, M.: *Současné trendy v edukaci dětí a žáků se speciálními vzdělávacími potřebami v České republice*. Brno: MSD, 2005. ISBN 80-86633-7
- VALENTA, M., MÜLLER, O.: *Psychopedie. Teoretické základy a metodika*. Praha: Parta, 2004.
- www.downsyndrom.cz

Current english resources

- *Down syndrome. Growing and learning.* Pueschel, S.: Kansas City: Murphy, Inc. 1981.
- *Babies with Down Syndrome: A New Parents' Guide .* Skallerup, S. (Ed.) Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House. (2008)
- *The Guide to Good Health for Teens and Adults with Down Syndrome.* McGuire, D. and Chicoine, B. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House. (2010)
- <http://www.ndss.org> (National Down Syndrome Society)
- <http://www.down-syndrome.org> (Down Syndrome Education Association)
- www.down-syndrome.eu (European Down Syndrome Association)