

## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis deals with the problem of pediatric feeding disorders. It brings the unique experience of formal and informal caregivers of children with feeding difficulties. The aim of the thesis is to describe the current management of pediatric feeding disorders and to identify the possibilities of multidisciplinary collaboration among health and social care professionals. The partial goal of the work is to describe and compare pediatric feeding disorder in different contexts, to identify the roles of individual professions and other actors in solving this problem and, last but not least, to identify needs based on specific people's experiences. This thesis is processed by the method of interpretive phenomenological analysis. The theoretical part defines the term pediatric feeding disorder and related terminology with reference to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems. It also focuses on the possible causes of the disorder, its prevalence, and socio-economic impacts. It presents the role of health and social care professionals. Attention is paid to the methods and possibilities of child and family support and the accessibility of care in the Czech Republic and abroad. The empirical part presents the experiences and needs of formal and informal caregivers of children with feeding disorders in the Czech Republic. The participants' experience in the research survey shows that caring for children with feeding disorders is time- and financially demanding. It affects the daily life and social participation of the child and family. The research results have shown that pediatric feeding disorder is a complex problem that requires multidisciplinary collaboration. The need for collaboration across disciplines is therefore emphasized in the final recommendations of the thesis, which contain concrete steps to raise awareness of pediatric feeding disorders.

**Keywords:** pediatric feeding disorder, feeding difficulties, child, psychosocial burden, multidisciplinary collaboration, comprehensive care, Feeding Matters