

Abstract

This thesis focuses on the research of the influence of social networks on relationships in a group of children aged 9–11 years. The theoretical part examines the development of social networks, the psychological development of children at this age and the risks associated with their use. The empirical part is based on qualitative research conducted through in-depth interviews with children and their parents. Analysis of the data using the method of interpretive phenomenological analysis revealed that children in the mentioned age range actively use social networks, despite the fact that there are age restrictions set by platforms. For them, social networks are mainly a means of communication and connection with peers, which can have a positive effect on bonds in the team and maintaining contacts outside the school environment. However, serious risks, such as cyberbullying, social exclusion and envy, have been identified as associated with children's social media activities. The results of this work can serve as a starting point for further research in this area and as a support for the development of appropriate preventive measures.