

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines how can Montessori teaching aids be used for educating persons with Down syndrome. It describes Down syndrome and mental disability that is associated with it, listing also the options for educating persons with Down syndrome by development stage. It provides an overview of Montessori pedagogics, its history, concepts and principles, and its status in the Czech Republic. It classifies Montessori pedagogics in terms of general didactics theory, and introduces Montessori therapy. The author connects Montessori to other human-centric didactic and pedagogical systems, such as structured teaching, global reading approach, Reuven Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment, sensory activation, basal stimulation, and psychobiography. She explains the role of teaching aids in the Montessori system and describes the materials she is using in her lessons for persons with Down syndrome. The aim and structure of such lessons are described, together with how to work with clients and their families. The author emphasizes the importance of entry diagnostics, and presents three case studies of her clients. Teaching Aids Book is attached to the thesis, presenting 92 aids. For each teaching aid, it includes a description, modifications aimed for the use of clients with Down syndrome, and diagnostic potential.