

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMPATHY IN PRE-SCHOOLERS

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Abstract

Seemingly more than ever, individualism, selfishness and egocentricity are increasing around us, making it difficult for educational staff, interested in meeting the individual needs, to cope with the carelessness or indifference that are sometimes expressed by young pupils. We are too busy with technology, rapid progress, we want to keep up with the fast pace of life, and thus we lose sight of transmitting the key issues of genuine values such as friendship, love, help, respect. But we must not forget that we are human, created to relate to each other. Empathy is a trait of the human person to be developed and exploited as early as possible, from the earliest age. In this study, empathy is addressed theoretically as a component of the emotional intelligence. The article also presents some practical ways to develop empathy in preschool children, given its importance in the process of adaptation.

Keywords: emotions; empathy; preschool; emotional intelligence.

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