

*Mgr Damian Myśliński*

*dissertation topic: Music therapy in the process of supporting cognitive and sensorimotor development of children with mild intellectual disabilities.*

*The dissertation is an attempt to determine the influence of music therapy on sensorimotor, communication and cognitive skills of children with mild intellectual disabilities. The theoretical part of this paper presents an analysis of sensorimotor and cognitive functioning of a child in the context of intellectual disability. Presentation of necessary definitions in the field of intellectual disability, description of educational and social activities as well as indication of necessary support provides a basis for seeking the ways of helping children with intellectual disability. The author directs this research to widely understood proposals from the field of special pedagogy, characterizing a number of therapeutic concepts, which can be applied in work with intellectually disabled children. In particular one of them is described – music therapy.*

*In the following considerations, the author presents methodological assumptions of own research. The research was based on a pedagogical experiment. Standardized tests were conducted among children with mild intellectual disabilities aimed at determining the level of sensorimotor, communication and cognitive skills (the reliability of tests was supervised by a competent judge – a certified physiotherapist, speech therapist and psychologist), then the independent variable was introduced – music therapy classes (conducted twice a week). After four weeks of classes, repeated tests were conducted to determine the effect of music therapy on the indicated skills. In addition to the experiment, a survey was also conducted to characterize the extent of music therapy support in Polish schools for children with mild intellectual disabilities. The analysis of research results is presented in the last chapter. It also includes a recommendation to include elements of music therapy in the educational and therapeutic activities of children with mild intellectual disabilities.*