

Introduction

Dear readers,

we would like you to become regular supporters of our magazine *Journal of Exceptional People*, which is focused on everything interesting that is happening in the area of special pedagogy, therapy and education of people who require above-standard attention and care. Therefore we are striving for some innovations that would help to raise the prestige of our magazine and which would also contribute to increasing reputation of our work. First of all, our editorial board decided to revitalize the meaningful and useful cooperation with our external staff who are members of the Scientifics Board of our journal. We also decided to address a number of special education institutions and ask their best experts, teachers, therapists, psychologists and other wide range of helping professionals for contributions that would reflect their experience in the above-mentioned area of special education in a broader sense. Our journal would like to publish their experience, observations, scientific papers, overview essays and book reviews of interesting books that are related to the areas we monitor.

In this spring issue, we have prepared a number of interesting articles for you, which are again focused on various areas covering topics on special pedagogy.

The first paper deals with partnerships, intimacy and sexuality in persons with intellectual disability. The authors of this paper are Z. Kozáková and T. Procházková from Palacký University in Olomouc in the Czech Republic. The next article will take us to the UK. In it, the author A. Smith builds on his contribution from the previous issue and reports in detail on the English primary school Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). Its focus is on the role of the SENCO at work and the varied cultural and political influences in England. The following contribution by Czech authors O. Müller and P. Svoboda summarizes research on the importance of poetry

in educational work with children with specific learning disabilities and in detoxification facilities for respondents of the detoxification unit.

Another Czech author, music therapist J. Kantor, and his colleagues from Czech (N. Častulíková, L. Kantorová) and Norway (T. Anderson, E.B. Olsen, E. Skogdal) and USA (H. Kupferstein) present the concept of far-reaching research which concerns music experience and its effect on augmentative and alternative communication in people with developmental disability. M. Vrabel, K. Pančocha and N. Dostálová report in the following article entitled *Improving functional vision through training based on the principles of behavioral analysis* on methods of developing and stimulating visual perception and focus in detail on the so-called ABC model, visual training, teaching, accommodation, convergence, fusion and vision.

The topic of the following article by the Slovak author K. Tománková is related to the previous article. It focuses on persons with visual and hearing impairments and describes the pitfalls and risks of falls in relation to visual and hearing impairments. The aim of her contribution is to summarize studies that show experience with problem of falls among individuals with sensory loss. Last article was sent to our editorial office by K. Majzlanová from the Slovak Republic. In her article called *Artistic expression and therapeutic aspects of therapy* she pays attention to the issues of experiences in the application of expressive therapies for children with special educational needs.

Our spring issue of the Journal of Exceptional People ends with a review of an interesting book *Discovering the self through drama and movement: the Sesame approach* by J. Pearson. The review was prepared by J. Vávra.

The final part of the magazine contains basic information for potential contributors to our JEP. We wish all our readers a nice spring and a lot of vitality.

Pavel Svoboda, executive editor, JEP