

1 Preschool Education

Inspections were conducted at a total of 1,563 kindergartens (which represents 32.5% of all the kindergartens listed in the School Registry in 2006). The inspectorate conducted these inspections based on the evaluation criteria that had been approved for the 2006/2007 school year, using the knowledge acquired during 950 classroom inspections, thematic inspections and the findings obtained during the monitoring process.

All kindergartens underwent an inspection of their establishment documents and a confirmation of the appropriate approval for their listing in the School Registry. 99% of the facilities possessed valid establishment documentation and the requisite approval for listing in the School Registry. Changes to the conditions that are looked at when determining whether or not the school can be listed in the School Registry were identified in 799 kindergartens (52% of all those inspected). In 40 instances, where formal type deficiencies were discovered during the inspections, the inspectorate stipulated deadlines for corrective action to be taken.

The inspectorate discovered that certain changes had been taking place in the legal status of the inspected kindergartens. Of all kindergartens inspected only 52.9% had the status of a standalone legal entity. Compared to the previous school year, the number of such facilities with this status showed a decline of 41%.

The average utilization rate of regional kindergarten capacity, based on the School Registry, was 84.8% - with Central Bohemia having the highest rate of utilization (90.4%) and South Moravia the lowest (80.9%). The specified capacity was exceeded (usually to only a minor degree) in 42 schools. This overcapacity situation occurred most frequently in the following regions: Olomouc (8x), Central Bohemia (7x) and Vysocina (7x).

The capacity of the monitored schools was also used by 4,189 children who had postponed their mandatory start date for school attendance (i.e. 5.1% of the total enrolment in such schools for the given school year). Those children whose mandatory school enrolment start date had not been postponed transfer directly into a primary school into which they are enrolled at the start of the next school year. Some kindergartens organize an official ceremony for those children who complete their preschool education as a motivational tool for those enrolling in primary school.

The monitored kindergartens had accepted 95% of the total of 41,879 children who had applied for enrolment. The fact that 22 of the remaining 5% of the children who were not accepted were in the 5-6 year old age category is seen by the inspectorate as a possible risk