

Autism: A Photo Analysis of Family Occupation and Health

Elizabeth DeGrace

OUHSC, Oklahoma City, OK, USA

Introduction: Family occupation, a co-constructed experience, reflects the integrity of a family's engagement in everyday life and subsequently family health. While studies are revealing the threat autism has on family health, the construct of family health in these families has yet to be explicated.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to explicate the perceptions of what represents family health in these families.

Methods: This study used a phenomenological approach to photographic reflection, to capture the essence of family health for families raising children to illuminate their perceptions of their family's health. Eight families were recruited for the study and consented to in-depth interviewing inquiring about family health, before and after photograph capture. Phenomenological analyses were used for textual data, while iconographic analyses, guided by occupational constructs, were used across photographs.

Discussions/Conclusions: Results of the photographic reflection contributed to the building of the construct of family health for families raising children with autism. Findings are consistent with what we know about families raising children with autism including minimal social participation, life revolves around child with autism and routines prevail over rituals.