Reframing a sense of self: a constructivist grounded theory study of children’s admission to hospital for surgery

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Statement of Original Authorship

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The research associated with this thesis abides by the international and Australian codes on human and animal experimentation, the guidelines by the Australian Government’s Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and the rulings of the Safety, Ethics and Institutional Biosafety Committees of the University.

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Abstract

Children are significant users of healthcare and their needs are different to those of adults. Whilst important gains have been made in children’s hospital care since the last half of the 20th century, there is a recent trend to reduce dedicated paediatric services in Australia. In order to provide healthcare services that are child centred and that truly respond to the needs of children, children’s perspectives on their healthcare are essential. Yet the inclusion of children’s perspectives in health services and research is lacking. It is through listening to, and hearing children, that health care can move closer to meeting their needs. This qualitative study explored the experiences of 10 primary school aged children (six to twelve years of age) admitted to hospital for surgery, from their perspective. A constructivist grounded theory approach was used that incorporated flexible, child centred research techniques including interviews and the ‘draw and write technique’.

This thesis presents a substantive theory: children’s reframing of their sense of selves to incorporate the experiences of hospitalisation and surgery. The children were active participants embedded within the phenomenon. Admission to hospital for surgery presented a form of adversity for the children in what was an embodied experience of contrasts. Major concepts of the experience were: ‘being scared’; ‘hurting’; and ‘having fun’. There were two major processes the children engaged in for reframing their sense of self to incorporate the experience. The first was around their meaning making activities, expressed as ‘coming to know’ and the second was their ability to move on from the adversity and reintegrate the experience into their normal lives, expressed as ‘bouncing back’. In order for the children to successfully incorporate the experience into their sense of self, a supportive context or holding environment was necessary, expressed as ‘being held’.

Children were the primary source of knowledge about their views and experiences for this study. The findings highlight the importance of centring children’s healthcare on the needs of children and their families. The findings suggest that ongoing problems with paediatric practices continue to impact negatively on children’s experiences of hospitalisation. Although there is a body of evidence about what constitutes best practice, in reality, practices fall short of these recommendations.
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Finally, special thanks to my family, Ross, Paddy, Annie and Will: Thankyou for keeping me grounded in family and my apologies for time away from you, for poor housekeeping and thrown together meals! I’m free next weekend – what would you like to do?
Childhood has its own way of seeing, thinking and feeling, and nothing is more foolish than to try and substitute ours for them (Rousseau in Emile, 1792).
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Self-Determination Theory: Basic Psychological Needs in Motivation, Development, and Wellness is the authors' magnum opus—a definitive exposition of autonomy, competence, and relatedness as basic psychological needs. Transcending social psychology, self-determination theory (SDT) has become a multidisciplinary phenomenon with implications for health sciences, sociology, social work, environmental studies, and philosophy of education. Theory and Research in Education Published On: 2018-12-18. For over 30 years, Richard Ryan and Edward Deci have worked together to expand theory and Constructivist and Objectivist Grounded Theory. 129. Theorizing in Grounded Theory. Now think about how to study stories like Margie's. How do you make sense of the events that Margie Arlen describes? What might you see in her statements that you would like to explore further with her and others who have experienced physical losses? Imagine that you pursued these questions in a qualitative study and aimed to develop a conceptual analysis of the materials. How would you go about conducting your research and creating the analysis? Grounded theorists collect data to develop theoretical analyses from the beginning of a project. We try to learn what occurs in the research settings we join and what our research participants' lives are like. We study how. The article is devoted to the study of the special features of child-parent relationships of adolescents with self-mutilating behavior. It shows that highly intensive emotional reactions of self-mutilating character are consolidated involuntarily in family atmosphere. The self-harm act, on the one hand, lowers the intensity of painful emotions, and on the other hand, negatively consolidates self-harm which is seen as an effective means of avoiding emotional pain. Emergent hospital admissions usually happen when a patient seen in the emergency department is subsequently admitted to the hospital. Elective hospital admissions occur when a doctor requests a bed to be reserved for a patient on a specific day. The patient then checks in to the admissions office and does not go to the emergency department. Elective admissions make up the majority of hospital admissions, but this percentage varies markedly with some hospitals. Elective admission: You have a known medical condition or complaint that requires further workup, treatment, or surgery. The admission itself may be delayed until a time is convenient for both you and your doctor. In most cases of elective admission, you will come to the hospital's admitting office. By employing grounded theory methodology rigorously, medical researchers can better design and justify their methods, and produce high-quality findings that will be more useful to patients, professionals and the research community. Peer Review reports. Background. Qualitative research is increasingly popular in health and medicine. In recent decades, qualitative researchers in health and medicine have founded specialist journals, such as Qualitative Health Research, established 1991, and specialist conferences such as the Qualitative Health Research conference of the International Institute fo