Cultural Care Needs of Spanish Speaking Parents with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

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Aim/Purpose/Objective: The purposes of this qualitative, ethnonursing study was to understand values, beliefs, and experiences of Spanish speaking parents with limited English proficiency (SSP-LEP), of Mexican origin, whose children are hospitalized and understand the role of nursing in providing culturally congruent care.

Sample: Informants were identified utilizing a purposive, snowball sampling method with the assistance of gatekeepers from the Spanish-speaking community. Eleven parents of Mexican origin with LEP, whose children were hospitalized, participated in the study.

Setting: Parents were recruited from the Spanish-speaking community, a pediatric hospital, and a neighborhood clinic in a large, urban, not-for-profit, non-academic affiliated pediatric health care system that provides care for children of Spanish speaking parents with LEP in North Central Texas.

Methodology: Qualitative, Leininger's Ethnonursing Research Method

Results: Three themes emerged: a) role of the mother as an ever-present manager of care for the hospitalized child and family, b) parents' difficult, fearful, and stressful and unknowing experiences in the presence of a language barrier, and c) expected nursing care that was kind, respectful, compassionate, and attentive.

Conclusions: Mothers desired to maintain the role of caregiver for the hospitalized child and their family at home. They verbalized a need to know information at all times. They cared for their hospitalized child emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Mothers experienced negative emotions, such as fear, stress, and unknowing in the absence of information about their hospitalized child’s health status.

Implications: Findings from this study emphasize the need for use of language services when a language mismatch exists between parents and nurses. Information gleaned from this study can aid in development of participatory action research evaluating language services and maternal support interventions.

References:


