

Title:

Empty Shoes

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Creative Arts in Nursing Posters

Keywords:

ethnodrama, family relationships and sibling grief

References:

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Abstract Summary:

The ethnodrama, "Empty Shoes", adapts findings from one author's sibling grief research project. The performance is developed from qualitative interviews and interwoven with the sibling loss experience of both authors. This piece seeks to assist adults with unresolved sibling grief and to raise awareness of surviving family member struggles.

Learning Activity:

| LEARNING OBJECTIVES | EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE |
|---|---|
| The learner will be able to discuss the impact of sibling loss on the surviving sibling and on the family unit. | Findings from one of the author's qualitative study on sibling grief are interwoven into the play. The play tells the story of sibling loss within the family unit, highlighting common themes from the research. |
| The learner will be able to evaluate the implications of sibling grief for nursing practice. | After reviewing the highlights from the play, implications for nursing practice will be outlined and discussed. |

Abstract

Despite sibling loss being associated with serious, negative mental and physical health outcomes, sibling grief is the least researched of all familial grief. Individuals who have lost a brother or sister have their sorrow overlooked and their bereavement experience devalued. Surviving siblings struggle with identity disruption as a result of the shifting sibling dynamic. Family members struggle to find meaning, navigate a new family structure, and integrate the memory of the lost sibling into family life. Grievers who were children at the time of loss may be at a disadvantage to understand death and grief. This ethnodrama adapts findings from one author's sibling grief research project. The performance is developed from these qualitative interviews and interwoven with the sibling loss experience of both authors. This play seeks to assist adults with unresolved sibling grief and to raise awareness of the impact of sibling loss on surviving family members. The authors met serendipitously at a conference, deciding to collaborate on writing a play out of the shared life experience of sibling loss.

Keywords: sibling grief, family relationships, ethnodrama