

## **Abstract**

Based on professional and personal interest, the purpose of this research investigation was to explore what impact, if any, working in the context of the home environment has to the establishment of psychological contact (Rogers, 1957:1959), with particular emphasis on the early stages of therapy.

The aims of the study were to explore and enhance an understanding of the concept of psychological contact by exploring how it is established and developed within the home environment and furthermore, to consider what implications there might be for the person-centred relationship and ongoing professional practice.

A qualitative study using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) was used to capture the accounts of other person-centred therapists with experience of working in client's homes. Semi-structured interviews with 3 person-centred therapists constitute the primary means of data collection.

The findings of this study suggest that the home context environment presents a number of challenges to the establishment of psychological contact (Rogers, 1957:1959) and that these early challenges can also influence the ongoing nature and quality of the contact that exists between therapist and client. The findings also suggest potential implications to the duration of therapy.

The limitations of the research study and future directions are also presented.