

Abstract

The author is parent to two children with the same disability. There has been a curiosity during her study regarding the impact of this factor on the perspective of the object relations theorists who form part of the integrative psychotherapy.

The aim of the research is to develop an understanding of her emotional reaction to her children's diagnosis and whether this was similar for other parents whose children have been diagnosed with disability. The research will enquire whether the disability had an impact on the development of the child, the relationship between parent and child and whether the processing style of the parent responding to a diagnosis mattered.

The research methodology will follow the authors philosophical preference and will be approached from a qualitative perspective encouraging inquiry of subjective experience. The method which allowed for the author to examine her own experience was met using the heuristic inquiry. This approach uses of co-researcher's similar experiences to experience illumination. It drew all experiences together through a composite depiction and a creative synthesis as a poem was produced.

The findings indicate that whilst there can be impacts on the relationship the disability is not a definitive factor. The presence of the disability can encourage new opportunities to reveal themselves which brings an unanticipated positive dimension.