

Understanding and teaching the parent's emotional experience through digital storytelling

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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- Digital storytelling (DS) has the potential to meaningfully capture peoples' experiences and share them in a highly engaging manner (Rieger et al, 2018).
- DS combines the art of telling stories with digital media, including text, pictures and recorded audio narration. These multimedia elements are blended together to tell a story that revolves around a specific theme (Robin, 2016) to create compelling accounts of experience and used to educate others.
- This is particularly useful within health to understand the perspectives of service users (Hardy & Sumner, 2018), in this case those of parents' experiences in neonatal care. Parents articulate powerful emotional accounts during their neonatal care trajectory (Turner et al, 2013) which need to be understood & learnt.

CREATION OF DIGITAL STORIES

- A narrative-based approach was used to interview 23 parents about their experience of having a premature baby. Stories were constructed from their narratives using a process of core-story creation (Petty et al, 2018). Metaphor analysis was undertaken for common themes to inform digital story development.
- Eight common metaphor clusters were identified and used to create digital stories to depict the parent emotional experience and act as a learning tool to enhance empathic understanding.

THE LONG HAUL AHEAD
A story about the transitions through the neonatal unit to going home and beyond.



ON THE EDGE
A story about survival and strength.



ANOTHER WORLD
A story about the need for parent involvement in care

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Digital stories constructed from raw narratives in the context of underpinning constructivism can provide a medium or an 'end-product' (Kim, 2015) to use for learning resource development. This can then contribute to the education of students and/or health professionals in relation to learning about, and understanding their patients' experiences through narrative pedagogy (Gazarian, 2010; Price et al, 2015).
- For empathic learning, there is a creative power held by metaphor and digital storytelling to educate others about emotional experiences as demonstrated by user evaluation. Such innovation can be disseminated globally.

WHAT IS LEARNT?



Experience

EMPATHY

Emotion

care interviews CoreStoryCreation **Story** experience narratives neonatal

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CONNECTIONS
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