

Well Siblings in the Context of Childhood Chronic Illness: A Research Synthesis Using Existing Grounded Theory

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Mixed Methods Synthesis of
Research on Childhood Chronic
Conditions and Family

unded by the National Institute of Nursing Research (1R01NR012445)

- Parent study: 1028 English Language research reports published between 1.1.2000 and 3.31.2014
- Purpose: Examine the relationships found among family system, family member, condition management, demographic, & healthcare system variables.

Purpose: Sibling Analysis

Compare:

- Well siblings' report of their own emotional responses.
- Parents' perceptions of well siblings' emotional responses.

Background: Sibling Analysis

- In a review of research focused on well siblings of children with cancer, autism, or Down's Syndrome the authors found a sizable variation in sibling emotional response and adjustment difficulties.
- Based on a meta-analysis of reports detailing siblings' internalizing problems, externalizing problems and/or positive attributes, the authors found that siblings of ill children had greater internalizing problems, externalizing problems and less positive self-attributes than comparison children

O'Brien, I., Duffy, A., & Nicholl, H. (2009). Impact of childhood chronic illnesses on siblings: A literature review. *British Journal of Nursing*; 18(22), 1358-1365.

Vermaes, I.P.R., van Susante, A.M.J., and van Bakel, H.J.A., (2012). Psychological functioning of siblings in families of children with chronic health conditions: a meta-analysis. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* 37(2), 166-184.

Sample: Sibling Analysis

- 90 reports with findings about siblings
 - Siblings were the focus of the research (n=24)
 - Family was focus of research but report included individual findings on siblings (n=66)

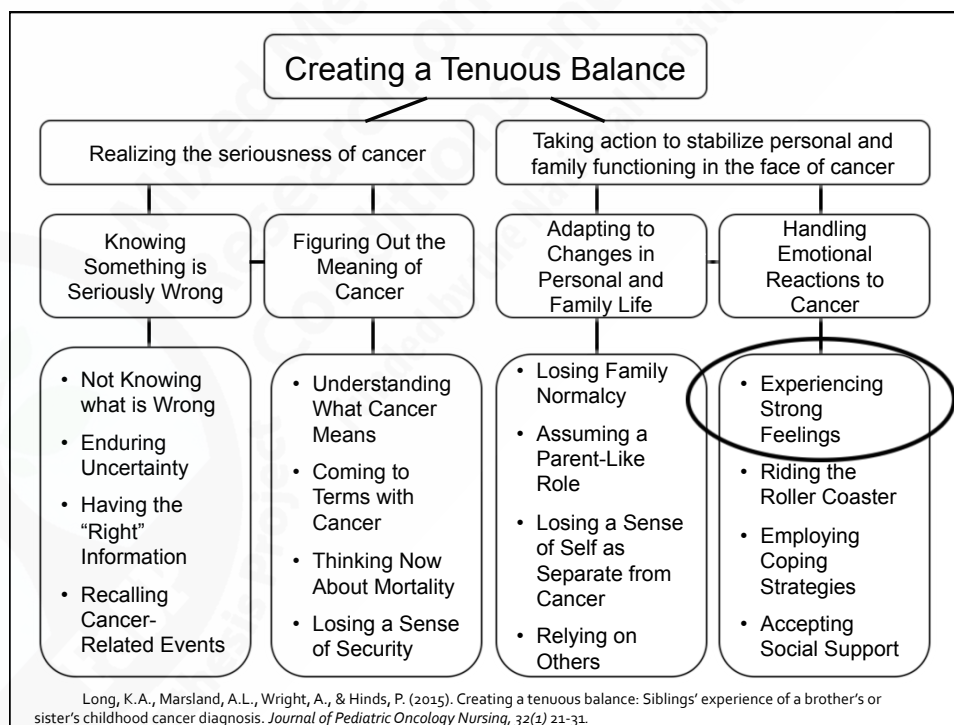
Data Extraction & Coding

- Results written as stand alone sentences

“Among well siblings of children with chronic renal failure,
their parents”
- All results sentences coded using codes developed specifically for Family Synthesis Project
 - demographic
 - family
 - parent & child
 - sibling well-being

Sibling Wellbeing

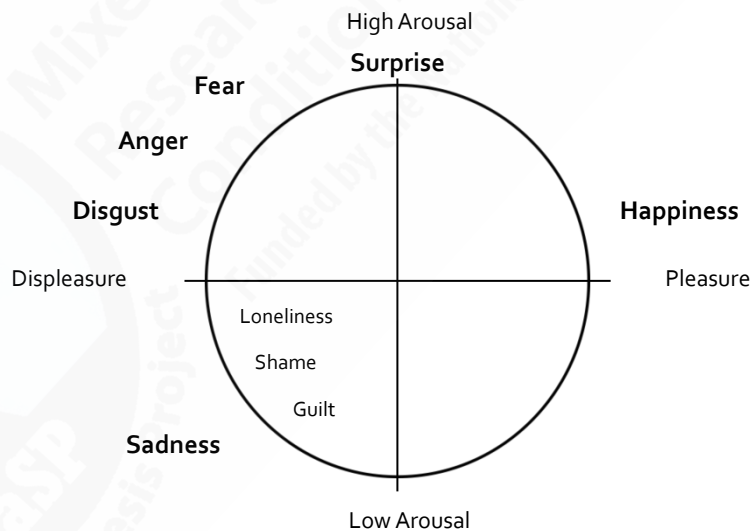
- **241 results statements coded as Sibling Wellbeing**
- **Identified an existing framework to organize the statements**



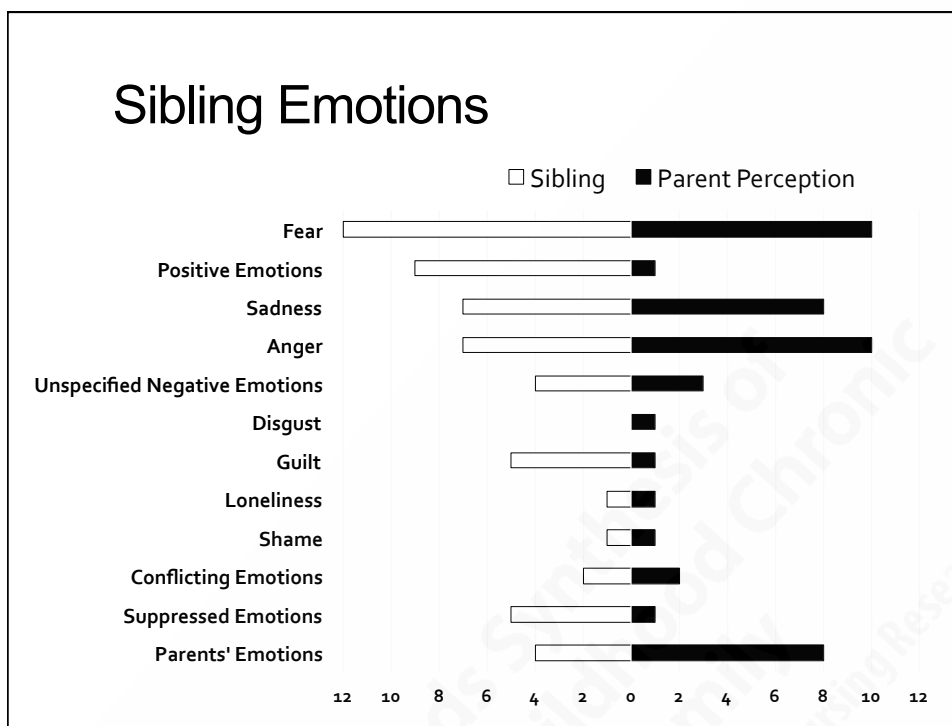
Sample: Experiencing Strong Feelings Sub-analysis

- 34 reports from 33 studies
- 803 siblings (6-27 y.o.) & 702 parents
- 9 countries
- Cancer, CF, Diabetes, Epilepsy, ESRD, Muscular Dystrophy, Sickle Cell, Faconi Anemia, Spina Bifida, Multiple
- 52 results statements: 31 from siblings & 21 from parents
- 29 emotions plus dealing with parents' emotions

Circumplex Model of Emotions



Russell, J.A. (1999). Core affect, prototypical emotional episodes, and other things called emotion: Dissecting the elephant. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 76(5), 805-819



Questions?

For more information of the Family Synthesis Project visit:
<http://familysynthesis.unc.edu/home>