Implicit Strategies within Environmental Contexts of Same-Sex Parents

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Introduction
- LGBT populations are understudied
- 2014: >170,000 children live in the US with a same-sex couple
- Sexual orientation found to influence occupational selection and experience
- Same-sex families vulnerable to judgment, pressure to conform, and need to guard kids from homophobia
- Unique stressors might affect public engagement of occupations

Research Question
- How do same-sex parented families experience public occupations?

Methods
- Qualitative case study
- Convenience sampling
- Harrell family: Megan, Julia, Ben, Jayce
- Semi-structured interviews
- Observations with active participation
- Thematic coding and analysis

Results

Discussion
- Environmental contexts both support and hinder occupational engagement
- Same-sex parents do experience unique stressors, but can adapt and respond
- Supports recent findings that kids with same-sex parents do not necessarily experience harm
- Begins to examine how environmental contexts affect the likelihood of being stigmatized

Implications for OS/OT
- OS should help examine how environmental stressors impact mental health of LGBT parents
- OT should help develop relevant client-centered care for this growing family population

References
1. Miller, C. L., & Price, J. (2014). The number of children being raised by gay or lesbian parents. Social Science Research Network