

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 couple¹
- Sexual orientation found to influence occupational selection and experience²
- Same-sex families vulnerable to judgment, pressure to conform, and need to guard kids from homophobia³
- 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

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 harm⁴
- 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

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3. Nordqvist, P. (2012). 'I don't want us to stand out more than we already do': Lesbian couples negotiating family connections in donor conception. *Sexualities*, 15(5-6), 644-661.
4. Sasnett, S. (2015). Are the kids all right? A qualitative study of adults with gay and lesbian parents. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 44(2), 196-222.

Results

