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Original Citation

Vasey, Jackie (2015) Tokenism or true partnership: Parental involvement in the child's acute pain care facilitated by nurses within a culture of family centred care in general children's wards. In: 12th International Family Nursing Conference, 18th-21st August 2015, Copenhagen, Denmark.. (Unpublished)

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International Family Nursing Conference August 2015



Tokenism or true partnership: parental involvement in the child's acute pain care

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Background

Key concepts:

- Pain care;
- Parental involvement;
- Family centre care;
- Preferences for involvement.

Involving parents in pain care includes:

- Providing a pain history;
- Contributing to assessment of the child's pain;
- Be involved in decisions about interventions;
- Monitoring the child's pain and the effectiveness of interventions;
- Continuing pain care at home.



Aim and objectives

Aim:

- To explore parental involvement in the child's acute pain care.

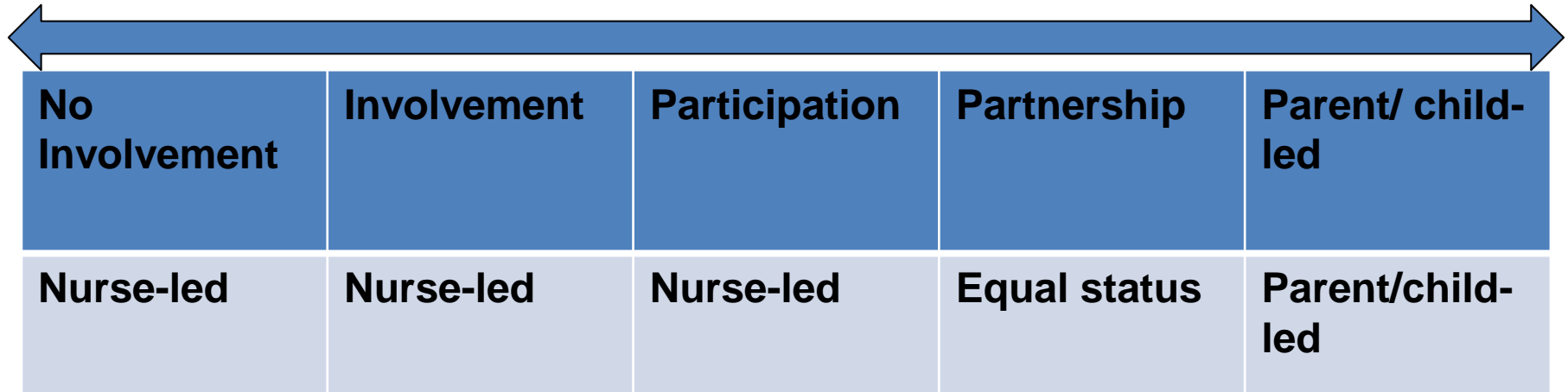
Objectives:

- Describe interactions and experiences of the child, parent and nurse in the child's pain care in acute care settings;
- Examine extent to which parents/main carers are partners and are involved in their child's care;
- Identify factors which may influence parental involvement in their child's pain care;
- Explore ways parental preferences for involvement in their child's care can be identified, facilitated and enhanced.

Theoretical framework

Family centred care: A practice continuum

“Family centred care is an approach to the planning, delivery and evaluation of healthcare that is governed by mutually beneficial partnerships between healthcare providers, patients and families” (Shields et al 2006, p. 1318)



Study design and methods

- Qualitative ethnographic approach
- Study setting was 2 district general hospitals:
 - 44 families observed/5 interviewed
 - 4 nurses observed/ 4 interviewed
- Data collection included non-participant observation with follow up semi-structured interviews with nurses and parents/children
- Framework approach underpinned data analysis: (Ritchie & Lewis, 2003)

Findings



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Concepts	Themes
Parents as advocates for their child	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Satisfaction with involvement in pain care• Expectations of involvement in pain care• Parents initiating pain care• Ensuring that their child's pain care needs are met• Knowledge of child informs care
Nurses promoting involvement and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicating and planning pain care with parents• Providing information about pain care• Involving parents in decisions about pain care• Valuing parents' contribution to their child's pain care• Organisation and systems support• Understanding and implementation of family-centred care
Nurses unintentionally preventing involvement and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not communicating and planning pain care with parents• Selective provision of information about pain care• Not involving parents in decisions about their child's pain care• Not valuing parents' contribution to their child's pain care• Poor organisation and systems support• Lack of understanding and implementation of family-centred care

Concept 1- Parents as advocates for their child

- Satisfaction with involvement in pain care
- Expectations of involvement in pain care
- Parents initiating pain care
- Ensuring that their child's pain care needs are met
- Knowledge of child informs care

Concept 1: extract



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- *'I did explain it to them and I'm, probably because I was a little bit stressed anyway, weren't I, I said well I'll go and get him some more of my own if you can't get the doctors up to give it and she was trying to explain to me, well she spent too long arguing the toss really...erm, with me about how things are prescribed. It makes no odds, it still needs to be prescribed by somebody...so there wasn't any warning of it building up, erm, so then they had to react rather than proactively keep him pain free. Erm, that, I think that's just the nature of the injury. Is it down, I suppose, a lot to how, not the right word, bolshy the parent is, you know, do you know what I mean (how parents could be more involved)? Family 18, Fred aged 8 years, interview.*



Concept 2- Nurses promoting involvement and partnership

- Communicating and planning pain care with parents
- Providing information about pain care
- Involving parents in decisions about pain care
- Valuing parents' contribution to their child's pain care
- Organisation and systems support
- Understanding and implementation of family-centred care

Concept 2 extract

'I tend to go to the bedside with the parent and discuss with the parent and the patient what is the pain, what type of pain it is, where is the pain and do a pain score and I also try and ascertain, if it's a very small child, what is making the mother or father or family feel that the child is in pain... because often the child themselves can't tell you, so what is it that's made the family say that they're in pain... I think it's also important to accept, to let them know that you've listened to them and that you've accepted their worries and ... what you're going to do about it.' Nurse 8, Karen, interview

Concept 3-

Nurses unintentionally preventing involvement and partnership

- Not communicating and planning pain care with parents
- Selective provision of information about pain care
- Not involving parents in decisions about their child's pain care
- Not valuing parents' contribution to their child's pain care
- Poor organisation and systems support
- Lack of understanding and implementation of family-centred care

Concept 3 extract

‘Sometimes think when parents start asking a lot of questions, you sort of think are they a nurse, are they a doctor, do they have a lot of knowledge that, you can sometimes feel quite threatened actually when parents ask a lot of questions and you start thinking oh hang on, then they start using words and you think are you a nurse or a doctor or something, you know, have you got knowledge and that can feel a bit ooh, you know, I’d better watch what I say here...I have asked people before, are you a doctor or a nurse because you seem to know quite a bit and I don’t mind, and I just say I’m just being nosy...if they were asking lots of questions, I might just make light of it, make a little bit of a joke about it, but it can be quite threatening when you get a parent that seems to have a lot of knowledge and it can put you on the back foot a bit and make you feel a bit defensive about what you’re doing.’ Nurse 8, Karen, interview

Future directions

- Pillars of partnership in care model
- Evaluation of model
- Include children in similar study to enhance child perspective

The Pillars of Partnership in Care Model



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Who has the first question?

Thank you for listening

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