Attitudes of Children’s Nurses to Caring for Children With a Learning or Developmental Disability

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University of Ulster
Background

- Overlap of children’s nurses and learning disability nurses
- Danger of falling between two stools
- Map attitudes and establish baseline
- Requirement for completion of MSc
Aim

- To determine if there was a difference between children’s nurses and adult nurses in their attitudes to people with disability
- To establish a baseline of children’s nurses' attitudes
Sample

Respondents were nurses on part 8 or 15 of the NMC register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Number sent</th>
<th>Number returned</th>
<th>Percentage returned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data was available from a previous sample of 269 adult nurses
Methodology

- Pre-existing attitude scale developed by McConkey & Truesdale
- Modified to reflect children's nursing with items edited and/or added
- Ethical approval granted by LRC and Trusts involved
- Postal survey
- Data analysed using SPSS v.10
Results

What Grade are you?

- Missing: 3
- D: 42
- E: 39
- F: 6
- G: 10
- C: 0
Graduate Status

Graduate status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not graduate</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentages are as follows:
- Graduate: 73%
- Not graduate: 13%
- Graduate: 15%
- Missing: 13%
Prior Training

- Learning disability training
- Post-reg course
- Covered in pre-reg
- No training
- Missing

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No training</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered in pre-reg</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-reg course</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning disability training
Training Required?

Is a stand alone module required?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stand alone module</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>yes</th>
<th>no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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What Should Be in the Training?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.W.C.</td>
<td>Communicating with children</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.M.</td>
<td>Behaviour management</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O.D.</td>
<td>Patterns of development</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.W.S.</td>
<td>Dealing with siblings</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.W.P.</td>
<td>Dealing with parents</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ep</td>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cont</td>
<td>Continence</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Personal Contact

Contact personal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Met and talked with</th>
<th>Just seen them around</th>
<th>Missing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childrens nurse</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult nurse</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hospital

- Childrens nurse
- Adult nurse

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Professional Contact

Contact professional

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Contact</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just seen them around</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met and talked with</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Childrens nurse
- Adult nurse

Hospital

- Missing: 13
- Just seen them around: 14
- Met and talked with: 19
- Regular: 77
- None: 34
The Attitude Scales

- Two six item scales measuring attitudes to caring for children with physical disability and learning disability
- One ten point attitude scale measuring general attitudes to people with disability
- Individual items were totalled to produce an overall score amenable to analysis
Caring for Children With a Physical Disability

**Group Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>Std. Error Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTPHY</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>14.1036</td>
<td>2.65354</td>
<td>.19101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>23.6500</td>
<td>4.08177</td>
<td>.25314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Graph showing data for Hospital, Childrens nurse, and Adult nurse with corresponding Mean, Std. Deviation, and Std. Error Mean values.](https://www.ulster.ac.uk)
Caring for Children With a Learning/developmental Disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>Std. Error Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTMENT</td>
<td>Childrens nurse</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>14.4712</td>
<td>2.55012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult nurse</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>22.3915</td>
<td>4.71502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group Statistics
Children With a Learning/developmental Disability Cannot Lead a Normal Social Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertain</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

normal life
You Should Not Expect Too Much From Children With Disabilities

- Strongly disagree: 34.0%
- Disagree: 30.5%
- Uncertain: 20.0%
- Agree: 10.5%
- Strongly agree: 4.0%
- Missing: 1.0%
Children With Disabilities Are Just As Happy As ‘Normal’ Children

just as happy as normal children

- Strongly agree: 41
- Agree: 31
- Uncertain: 18
- Disagree: 6
- Strongly disagree: 4
Ultimately Children With Disabilities Should Be Discouraged From Having Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>agree</th>
<th>uncertain</th>
<th>disagree</th>
<th>strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discouraged</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children With Disabilities Can Meet Similar Developmental Goals to Other Children

- Strongly disagree: 8.5%
- Disagree: 18.0%
- Uncertain: 33.0%
- Agree: 21.0%
- Strongly agree: 16.5%
- Missing: 3.0%
Children With Disabilities Should Be Nursed by a Nurse With a Specialist Qualification

- Strongly agree: 29
- Agree: 24
- Uncertain: 13
- Disagree: 8
- Strongly disagree: 26

Percent: 20, 30, 40, 50, 60

Missing: 0
They Do Not Need to be Cared for by the Government More Than Other People

- **strongly disagree**: 44.0%
- **disagree**: 34.0%
- **uncertain**: 12.5%
- **agree**: 5.0%
- **strongly agree**: 3.5%
- **Missing**: 1.0%

**Pie Chart**

- **disagree**: 34.0%
- **uncertain**: 12.5%
- **agree**: 5.0%
- **strongly agree**: 3.5%
- **strongly disagree**: 44.0%
- **Missing**: 1.0%
There Should Not Be Specialised Schools for People With Learning/developmental Disabilities

- Strongly disagree: 19
- Disagree: 12
- Uncertain: 6
- Agree: 55
- Strongly agree: 8
- Missing: 0

not be specialised schools
Children With Disabilities Should Be Nursed in a Side Ward

- 73.0% strongly disagree
- 15.5% disagree
- 6.0% uncertain
- 2.5% agree
- 2.0% Strongly agree
- 1.0% Missing
Parents of Children With Disabilities Should Be Less Strict Than Other Parents

- Strongly disagree: 65
- Strongly agree: 5
- Agree: 27
- Uncertain: 0
- Disagree: 0
- Missing: 0

- Parents less strict
Conclusion

• Hypothesized fears of children’s needs not being met were shown to be unfounded in that attitudes amongst nursing staff were positive to this group.
• Findings from the attitude scale showed an overall positive attitude to caring for children with disabilities.
• Some findings appeared contradictory.
Limitations

- Inherent difficulties with attitude measurement
Next Steps

• More research!
• Change of methodology: qualitative, interviews or focus groups
• Change of approach:
• Talk to parents and the children as opposed to staff