

Mothers' stories of what it is like to raise a child with Intellectual Disabilities

The Lived Experience of Mothers of Young People Living with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) in Ireland.

What the Literature Says about Caring for Children with ID.

- In Ireland, there are 22,228 children 18 years and younger living with ID.
- Mothers provide 70% of the care.
- Current research focuses on professional services, maternal wellbeing and caregiver burden.
- Little research on how caring role co-exists with other roles and demands in the woman's life.

Methods

1. Narrative Inquiry to draw out the mothers' stories.
2. n=25 in-depth interviews.

What the Study Aims to Learn

- How mothers find meaning in their role as primary carers over the lifetime of their child.
- How caring co-exists with other maternal roles.
- How the flow of events and experiences shape mothers' experiences as women and as carers.
- How mothers lived experiences can contribute to peer-learning for next generation mothers and improve children's outcomes.

Potential Outcomes

- Sensitise professional practice to the support needs of mothers.
- Help improve service provision for children and their primary carers.

Unique Feature

- 'Insider Status' of researcher.
- Orla's eldest son is a young man with ID.



Orla and her son Max

Selected Bibliography

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