A Family-Researcher Partnership: Working together to spread awareness on the ‘F-words’ in Childhood Disability

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The ‘F-words’ in Childhood Disability: Function. Family, Fitness, Fun, Friends, Future

Background

- In 2012, CanChild researchers published a paper called: “The ‘F-words’ in childhood disability: I swear this is how we should think!”
- Building on the WHO’s International Classification of Functioning (ICF) framework, the article featured key strengths-based ICF themes – Function, Family, Fitness, Fun, Friends, and Future.

Objective

- The objective of this integrated Knowledge Translation (iKT) project was to work with families to spread awareness on the ‘F-words’ ideas through an online awareness video.

Methods

- Families and researchers worked together through the entire project – developing, implementing, disseminating, and evaluating the video.
- The video, posted on the CanChild website, used written descriptions, parents’ reflections, pictures, music, and graphic effects to captivate the audience.
- The video was evaluated by tracking the number of views and through an online survey that collected feedback on viewers’ perceptions of the video and the ‘F-words’ concepts.

Results

Online Survey Responses - Evaluation of Video and ‘F-words’ Concepts:

- After two months, there were 715 views of the video and 137 survey responses. These findings are based on the 137 survey responses.

Viewer Demographics

- In what country, do you currently reside?
  - 89% said Yes! 89% of viewers lived in Canada

From what perspective are you viewing this video?

- Why
  - Physician: 27%
  - Researcher: 26%
  - Therapist: 22%
  - Educator: 18%
  - Student: 15%
  - Friend of someone with a disability: 15%
  - Family Member: 14%
  - Other Health Care Worker: 13%
  - Person with a disability: 1%

Perceptions of ‘F-words’ Concepts

- Have you previously heard of the ‘F-words’ in childhood disability?
  - Yes: 67%
  - No: 33%

- What are your initial thoughts of the ‘F-words’?
  - 98% ‘extremely liked’/‘liked’ the ideas

Implications

- We were able to spread awareness to a wide audience in a short time.
- Engaging families throughout the project was a critical factor in the success of the video.
- Our hope is to continue building up the ‘talk’ on the ‘F-words’ and intrigue families to find out more information.
- The ‘F-words’ ideas hold great promise for supporting the adoption of a biopsychosocial approach in children’s health care.

Next Steps

- This video was the first step to spreading awareness on the ‘F-words’.
- Based on the feedback we received from the video, the research team will work together to make minor changes in order to enhance the video.
- By designing a multi-faceted iKT intervention we hope to address the knowledge needs of families raising children with disabilities and to promote the uptake of the ‘F-words’ concepts in children’s health care.