Strengthening friendships of young persons with disabilities: A holistic framework

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Background

Friendship 'work' needs to shift from being the sole responsibility of persons with disability to being the shared responsibility of others in the social context [1].

Purpose

To find examples of strong and authentic friendships in the literature and ask: "What made this friendship possible?"

Method

An integrative review combining 1) articles on friendship experiences and interventions; 2) friendship intervention toolkits; and 3) an unpublished review by Holland Bloorview researchers and clinicians with articles spanning 1999 to 2013 [2].

Year Range of Updated Search

2013 to 2022

Databases Searched

MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, PsycINFO, Web of Science

Number of Identified Articles

14,931. Screening is ongoing.

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Places Contributing to a culture that believes and prioritizes friendships are possible for everyone Activities Providing experiences that facilitate getting to know each other and feeling good about self and Strong and others authentic friendships

Objects

Using tangible items from surroundings in ways conducive to friendships

Time

Nurturing conditions to feel safer in future friendships

People

Including peers, families, teachers, and communities in friendship teams

References

[1] Batorowicz, B., King, G., Mishra, L., & Missiuna, C. (2016). An integrated model of social environment and social context for pediatric rehabilitation. Disability and Rehabilitation, 38(12), 1204-1215. https://doi.org/10.3109/09638288.20 15.1076070

[2] Keenan, S., King, G., & McPherson, A. (2015). A scoping review on the meaning of friendship for children and youth with disabilities. Unpublished review paper.