A tale of two narratives:

Recreational sport experiences of emerging adults with disabilities

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PURPOSE

To explore the narratives of emerging adults with disabilities in recreational sport. What role do peers, parents, and coaches hold?

METHODS & METHODOLOGY

- 1-to-1 semi-structured interviews
- Athletes asked for parents to sit-in for 3 of 8 interviews
- Observations of one sport program session
- Field notes

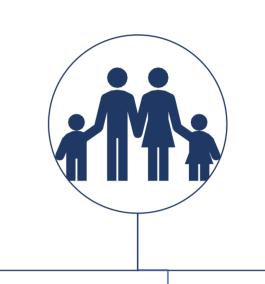
Data Collection Period: March 2018 to September 2018



- 2 female; 6 male
- 18 to 25 years old (M = 22 years)
- Softball (n = 5); Curling, Basketball, and Swimming (n = 1 each)
- Mild intellectual disability (n = 5); Autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, and visual impairment (n = 1 each)
- Urban (n = 2) and rural (n = 6) dwelling



How do they, athletes and parents, 'view' sport?



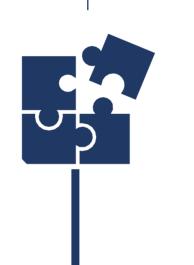
What is the nature and experience of parental involvement?



Role of Sport



Strengths vs. Deficits



Finding the Right 'Fit'



The Other



The How



Overshadowing of the Self

Interviewer: Oh, so, you were somewhere in the middle.

Adam's father: He was not good enough to go in the better team, like it was a little bit too quick, too aggressive. But the other team was quite a bit below. Some of the people were coming from programs and they were in their 40s and really needed full time support to hold the bat. It wasn't fitting for him. If we could find one that was good in the middle.

Adam: Yeah!

Adam's father: Then we might do it.

Adam: Yeah. [looking away and becoming more

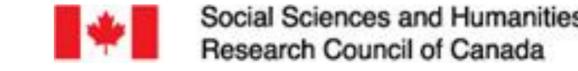
despondent]

We [Lizzie and Suzie] used to do a girls' softball league, but we couldn't really interact with them. They talked about stuff we don't understand, and they don't really talk to us. Then mom suggested that we try [organization] name] softball. That's when we started coming here. She said that she wasn't sure we'd like it because we're not like some of these people [gesturing towards the other athletes]. But we can talk to them better. They talk about the same things I like to talk about.

Hadi: I always have guardians watching me and they tell me to stick to one side of the [pool] lane. My brother was watching me one day. Another day my father was watching me swim. But I do not talk to people that much in the pool.

IMPLICATIONS

- Peers do not have a noted influence on choice of activity/sport
- Can presence of peers be enough for social interaction, acceptance, and inclusion?
- Parents have extended roles in adult children's sport participation
- Difference: Parental role and the language parents use about abilities, disability, and sport
- Coaches must build relationships with athlete and parent
- Athletes desire adult acceptance



Let's

talk!

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