

# 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?

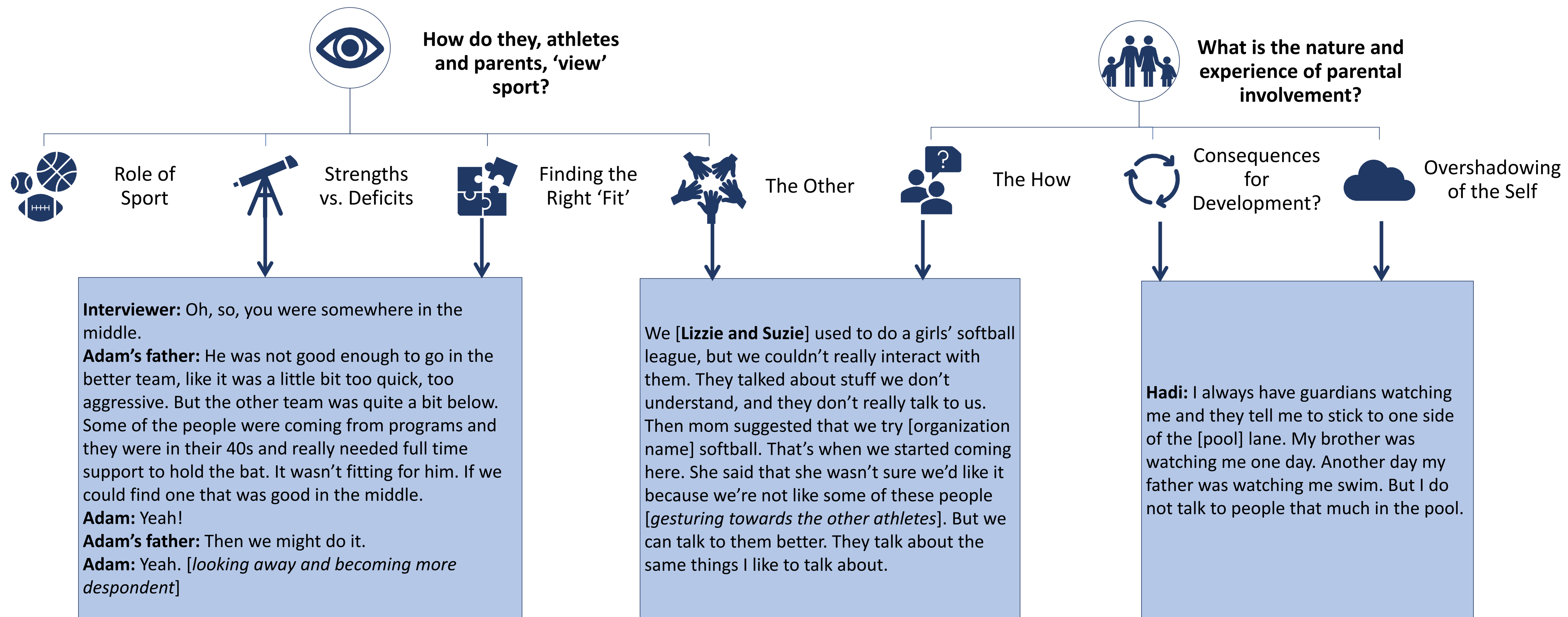
### METHODS & METHODOLOGY

- 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

### CHARACTERS

- 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



### 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*

**Thank you to the athletes for sharing their stories!**

