



1,838

Views

63

CrossRef citations to date

3

Altmetric

Articles

# Caring for an individual with autism disorder: A qualitative analysis

Kenneth W. Phelps , Jennifer L. Hodgson, Susan L. McCammon & Angela L. Lamson

Pages 27-35 | Published online: 10 Jul 2009

 Cite this article

 <https://doi.org/10.1080/13668250802690930>

Sample our  
Health and Social Care  
Journals



>> **Sign in here** to start your access  
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article

 Figures & data

 References

 Citations

 Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

 Share

## Abstract

**Background** Caregivers in this qualitative study reported the multidimensional implications of having a child with autism on their family's lives and overall functioning.

**Method** The Effects of the Situation Questionnaire (Yatchmenoff, Koren, Friesen, Gordon, & Kinney, [1998](#)) was used to gather qualitative data from 80 caregivers. Colaizzi's ([1978](#)) phenomenological data analysis method was used to analyse the caregivers' written narratives. Biopsychosocial-spiritual, systemic, and ecological theoretical lenses were used to conceptualise the recorded experiences.

**Results** Seven thematic content areas emerged from the caregivers' data. They include: psychological implications, familial implications, social implications, services, spiritual

benefits, economic challenges, and focus on the future of having a child diagnosed with autism.

Conclusions The results of this study offer valuable insight into how helping professionals may attend to the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of those caring for an individual with autism.

Keywords:

- autism
- caregiving
- biopsychosocial-spiritual
- ecological
- systemic

## Notes

\*This manuscript was accepted under the Editorship of Roger J. Stancliffe.

### Related Research Data

Posttraumatic Growth in Mothers of Children with Acquired Disabilities

Source: Journal of Loss and Trauma

Assessing Child Symptom Severity and Stress in Parents of Autistic Children

Source: Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry

Perceived competence and behavioral adjustment of siblings of children with autism

Source: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders

The Ecology of Human Development

Source: Unknown Repository

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

Source: Unknown Repository

Parent Perspectives on Role Engagement

Source: Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

Enrichment and Stress in Families Caring for a Child with a Serious Emotional Disorder

Source: Journal of Child and Family Studies

Evidence of resilience in families of children with autism

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by  
63

Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

 Sign me up

