



(<http://diehardbrain.blogspot.co.uk/>)

Developing a Creative and Theatre Based Intervention for Young People with Dementia and their Carers

Alison Ward, Dr Jacqueline Parkes, Dr Ross Prior
The University of Northampton, Institute for Health and Wellbeing

A focus on younger people with dementia

- ▶ Young onset dementia (< 65 years)
- ▶ 17,000 to 18,500 diagnosed in the UK
- ▶ Diagnosis is complex
- ▶ Symptoms may differ from those with older onset dementia
- ▶ Social and 'life phase' implications
 - ▶ Employment
 - ▶ Financial
 - ▶ Family
 - ▶ Social isolation
 - ▶ Stigma
 - ▶ Mental health



A focus on younger people with dementia

- ▶ **Benefits of tailored service provision:**
 - ▶ Can improve behavioural issues
 - ▶ Provide carer respite
 - ▶ Improve wellbeing
 - ▶ Provide social engagement and support
 - ▶ A feeling of normalisation



Creative Engagement – Current practice

- ▶ Storytelling and Improvisation based drama
- ▶ Ladder to the Moon
 - ▶ Incorporate carer training with improvisational film shoots
- ▶ TimeSlips
 - ▶ Storytelling



(Ladder to the Moon, 2013)





He's got long legs Oh boy!

He sure is jumping.

He is into the music

(TimeSlips, 2013)



What can we learn for a new intervention?

- ▶ Person centred care
- ▶ Recognise the diversity within dementia
 - ▶ Build in interests and needs of participants
 - ▶ Focus on abilities and individual
- ▶ Quality of work
- ▶ Clear aims of the intervention
- ▶ Build in success
- ▶ Use a range of activities: music, movement, storytelling, improvisation



Proposed methods and engagement

▶ Research methods:

- ▶ Participant observation of sessions
- ▶ Pre and post interviews with carers and people with dementia
- ▶ Photo/video diaries

▶ Celebrating the work:

- ▶ Video of the work undertaken to share with friends/family and wider community



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Questions and Feedback



alison.ward@northampton.ac.uk