‘Through my eyes’: children with experience of cancer describing through photography what promotes their health

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Background

- 80% survive
- Stress and suffering
- Physical and psychosocial difficulties later in life
- Positive and negative consequences

(Björk et al., 2011; Darcy et al., 2013; Eilertsen et al., 2011; Eiser, 2007; Gustafsson et al., 2013; Li et al., 2010; Sunberg et al., 2009; Wakefield et al., 2010)
Health promotion and children’s perspective

- Convention of the rights of the child
- Limited research salutogenic perspective and child’s perspective
Aim

- To explore what promotes health from the perspective of children with experience of cancer treatment, in order to build knowledge that will be used in a health promotion intervention for these children.
Method

- Explorative qualitative design with an inductive approach
- Focus group and photogragraphy

(Close, 2007; Heary & Hennessy, 2002; Polit & Beck, 2013)
Pretesting

- Pilot focus groups
- Healthy children
- 8-12 years
Participants

- Fifteen children 8-12 years of age and with experience of cancer

- Recruitment
  - University hospital and Regional hospital in the south of Sweden
Data collection

- 5 focus groups
- Composition
- Location
- Time

(Coyne et al., 2009; Heary & Hennessy, 2002)
Procedur

• Semi-structured approach

• Ice-breaking phase
• Theme phase
• Closure phase

• Refreshment break (fruit, juice and cookies)

(Gibson, F., 2007; Horstman, M., et al., 2008)
Photography

- Digital camera
- Photos of what promotes health
- Show and tell

(Close, 2007; Stegenga & Burks, 2013)
Data analys

- Qualitative content analysis
- Inductive approach

(Elo & Kyngäs, 2008)
Overview of the preliminary results

- Meaningful relationships:
  - Togetherness in the family
  - Friendship with peers
  - Affection to pets

- Trust:
  - Feel safe
  - Confidence in significant others

- Recreational activities:
  - Engagement in play and leisure
  - Withdraw for relaxation
  - Enjoyment
Meaningful relationships

• Togetherness in the family
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Trust

• Feel safe
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Recreational activities

• Engagement in play and leisure
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• Enjoyment
Summary

• From the children’s view, significant health promoting factors are; meaningful relationships with family, friends and pets, to have trust in people and surrounding, as well as recreational activities.

• Photography + focus groups useful and appreciated method
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