

## Intertwined Lives: Narratives of Children with Disabilities and Their Siblings

**Authors :** Shyamani Hettiarachchi

**Abstract :** The experiences of children with disabilities and their siblings are seldom documented in Sri Lanka. The aim of this study was to uncover the narratives of young children with disabilities and their siblings in Sri Lanka. Fifteen children with disabilities and fifteen siblings were included in this study. Opportunities were offered to the participants to engage in artwork and story making activities. Narratives on the artwork and stories were gathered and the data analyzed using the key principles of Framework Analysis to determine the key themes. The key themes to emerge were of love, protectiveness, insecurity and visibility. The results highlight the need to take account of the experiences of children with disabilities and their siblings to understand how they understand and cope with disability.

**Keywords :** art, children with disabilities, narratives, siblings, storymaking

**Conference Title :** ICDD 2016 : International Conference on Disability and Diversity

**Conference Location :** Rome, Italy

**Conference Dates :** May 02-03, 2016