

Response to reviewer-1

Yes. This article explores this issue through the application of an innovative and culturally relevant intervention—fantasy expressive arts therapy. Provides a strategy to address and reduce a pressing social and psychological issue - family caregiver stress. It provides rich qualitative insights into how creative and symbolic approaches can help caregivers process emotions, rebuild self-identity, and build social support. The combination of narrative inquiry and IPA adds rigor and depth. This work contributes to both caregiving research and expressive arts therapy literature.

Response-Thank you!

The title accurately reflects the content and methodology of the article.

Response- Thank you!

Some parts are OK, but still need further polish. Although the overall content is understandable, there are problems with grammar and fluency in the sentences. Some sentences appear to be literal translations. It is recommended that you polish the manuscript again in English to improve the quality of academic expression, such as simplifying lengthy sentences and using consistent and standard academic terms. For example, some sentences in the text are:

- 1- “Through personalized imaginative journeys and creative activities, participants construct vibrant personal narratives and cultural meanings.”~~**chang to:**“Through personalized imaginative journeys and creative expression, participants shape narratives that reflect their inner cultural meanings and lived experiences.”
- 2- “Data sources comprised session transcripts, participants’ artwork, and follow-up interviews.”~~**chang to:** “The data sources included transcripts of group sessions, participants’ creative works, and follow-up interviews.”

Response-

"The manuscript has been revised in accordance with the reviewers' feedback and recommendations."

1. Section 1.2 on page 2 has been revised and marked in red font.
 2. Section 2.4 on page 4 has been revised and marked in red font.
- Introduction:

The background and motivation of the research are clearly presented, and the theoretical foundation is sufficiently established and well connected to practical applications.

Methods:

The study design is appropriate; however, the description of the data analysis process (e.g., coding procedures, verification methods, researcher reflexivity) could be more detailed and specific.

Results: The case descriptions are vivid and nuanced, with emotional expressions that are compelling. Nevertheless, the analysis would be more comprehensive if it included a cross-comparison of themes across different cases.

Discussion:

The discussion can be better integrated with theoretical frameworks and would benefit from a stronger engagement with existing literature.

Conclusion:

The summary is clear and highlights practical implications. Suggestions for future research could be further elaborated and specified.

Response-

"The manuscript has been revised in accordance with the reviewers' feedback and recommendations."

- 1.The methodology section has been revised and marked in red on pages 4-5.**
- 2.The results section has been revised and marked in red on page 6.**
- 3.The discussion section has been revised and marked in red on page 8.**
- 4.The conclusion will be further refined and elaborated based on the suggestions in future revisions.**

Overall appropriate. The literature covers classics and some recent research, but it is recommended to supplement international research in the past three to five years to enhance the timeliness and internationality of the literature.

Response- While art therapy has been widely studied, the exploration of fantasy-based expressive arts therapy is still in its infancy.

The methodological framework is solid but requires more transparency in data analysis processes.

Response- “The methodological framework has been revised in accordance with the reviewers’ suggestions, as reflected on pages 3 to 5.”

English language editing is necessary for academic polish

Response- In accordance with the reviewers’ suggestions, we will further consult academic experts to help refine and revise the manuscript.

Suggest adding visual aids (e.g., thematic maps or sample artwork images) to enrich presentation

Response- According to the reviewers’ suggestions, participants’ life narratives have been visually represented through lifeline diagrams to support the written descriptions, as shown on pages 5–8.

Response to reviewer-2

The references are old. The majority are over 10-15 years old.

Response- While art therapy has been widely studied, the exploration of fantasy-based expressive arts therapy is still in its infancy.