

On Taking Care, Making Care, Giving Care, and Being Careful  
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Care is a demonstration of personal interest, involvement and responsibility. It is offered in a variety of nourishments and connections, not readily available but provided by the hands, minds, and hearts of others. From these relationships we learn the grounded, detailed, and natural process of making care. We learn that care can be created with intention, time, and effort. Once created, care can be given, we can provide for others that which we have in abundance, as well as that for which we too long for or lack. We give not only from positions of wealth, but within our own destitution or lack we can generate care beyond what we currently possess. Yet to be full of care also means to be careful, cautious, concerned beyond the impulse to provide for the other or ourselves.

This paper seeks to explore this quality of kindness, interest, and graciousness known as care and how it appears in different roles, be it as companions, parents, children, or care-providers. Using the thought of Heidegger and Levinas it wonders: how do we describe care beyond the ontological qualification of disclosure? Does care have a 'lifespan' and, if so, what are the different forms it takes? And, what are the dangers inherent in expressing care towards another human?