



Pediatric Nursing Care

A Concept-Based Approach

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Preface

Caring for children and their families is a complex and emotional endeavor. Many struggles and barriers in accessing comprehensive health care for children continue to plague families across the United States. Current data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2016) reveal that as many as 19.7% of American children younger than age 18 are living at the poverty level and 5% to 7% of American families have inadequate health care for their children (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017). Other challenges faced by many families include food insecurity, homelessness, unsafe neighborhoods, unemployment, and single-parent households. These stressors, as well as concerns about the promotion of health and security of safety for children, add to the complexity of providing holistic care. Nurses must be confident and well prepared to assist a family, no matter what the family's constellation, economic status, or level of health. Pediatric nursing is challenging, rewarding, and increasingly more complex in the current times.

The foundation for excellence in clinical care of children and their families starts with knowledge of growth and development according to the expected milestones and clinical presentation for each stage. Knowledge of the significant anatomic, physiologic, developmental and cognitive differences between children and adults will provide the new pediatric nurse with information on which to base the child's assessments and care. Children are not "little adults." The pediatric nurse must use both unique theoretical and skills-based foundations to make safe decisions about these vulnerable patients.

This text presents material for the new pediatric nurse, whether that nurse is new to the profession or is transitioning from adult care to pediatric care. It provides vital information about the various settings in which the pediatric nurse can encounter children—inpatient acute care, pediatric intensive care, school nursing, outpatient nursing, and so on. As most children do not experience a hospitalization during their developmental period, it is important for a pediatric nurse to be well prepared to conduct assessments, implement the nursing

process, work as an interdisciplinary team member, and provide care to both the child and the family regardless of the setting. The book stresses the importance of using family-centered care as a foundation for respect, no matter what the family is facing or experiencing in their lives. Empowering and enabling parents or caregivers to provide care for their child are two important concepts of family-centered care.

This text has been written by a very experienced pediatric nurse. The author is both a professor of pediatric/family healthcare nursing and an actively practicing pediatric nurse in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. She works in the inpatient pediatrics unit at California Pacific Medical Center with children who have a wide variety of acute, surgical, and traumatic injuries. She also works per diem for Lucille Packard Stanford Hospital at a pediatric hematology oncology clinic in San Francisco; her role there is as a clinical coordinator providing children with outpatient chemotherapy, education, and supportive care during cancer treatment.

Many pediatric and family healthcare textbooks are currently available. What is unique about this text is that it provides a concept-based perspective as well as a great deal of information on pathologies and diagnoses unique to children. Its many features provide the latest information on family education, research, safety, and pharmacology. The author has used a variety of national standards of practice as well as position papers by national pediatric organizations to inform the content provided. Chapters unique to this text include those focusing on symptoms assessment and management for children, working and communicating in interdisciplinary teams, caring for children across healthcare settings, cultural care models, essential safety models, and pediatric-specific skills. Each chapter has been written to provide the essential components of pediatric nursing theory as well as the corresponding skills. The carefully selected appendices also enhance the text by providing specifics on pediatric calculations, nutrition, safe and effective handoffs, growth charts, prevention of errors, and tips

for maintaining professional boundaries, among other resources.

The author hopes that the reader finds this text to be a helpful guide and a reference for attaining deeper understanding of the unique aspects of pediatric nursing.

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