

**Fundamental Aspects of
Children's and Young People's
Nursing Procedures**

Note:

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Fundamental Aspects of Children's and Young People's Nursing Procedures

**edited by
Alan Glasper, Marion Aylott and Gill Prudhoe**



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Dedication

Mrs Mary Taylor (secretary to the children's and young peoples nursing team at the University of Southampton) for helping to organise the making of this book.



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Preface

Fundamental Aspects of Children's and Young People's Nursing Procedures has been adapted from Penny Tremayne and Sam Parboteeah's successful book Fundamental Aspects of Adult Nursing Procedures.

It has been edited and written by children's nurses for children's nurses in practice. The clear and straightforward descriptions of clinical procedures are an excellent resource for nursing students and newly qualified staff nurses in their everyday working lives within the child field of practice.

The complexities of caring for sick children, and their families, require nurses who are fully conversant with the special needs of this client group, and the first chapter of this book covers in detail the crucial considerations of risk assessment, consent and child safeguarding.

Fundamental Aspects of Children's and Young People's Nursing Procedures has been designed with a specific readership in mind, to give maximum clarity and to be simple to use. Each chapter is structured around the what, how and why of children's nursing procedures, and throughout the text there are helpful exercise activities for readers to practise and hone their skills within the safety of the skills laboratory. The step-by-step approach takes readers through each procedure logically. It is designed to encompass both the knowledge that underpins the skills and the practicalities of carrying them out. Readers will find particularly useful the sections on the equipment needed to carry out each skill and the actions that need to be carried out both before and after each procedure.

As the complexity of children's nursing procedures grows year by year, this timely book, supplemented with important information pertinent to the skills in question, will prove an invaluable text for nurses working in contemporary children's nursing settings.

*Alan Glasper
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Foreword

So often we hear that children and young people's nursing is changing more now than ever before. It remains a view inextricably linked to even further technological advances. But is this the whole story? And what does it mean to the children's nurse in hospital or the community? Is children and young people's nursing care provision really altering beyond merely learning future aftercare of new treatments? Change is occurring from a variety of angles that clearly impact not only on healthcare provision on the wider scale, but also the grass roots of individual children's nurse practitioners.

This book embodies the knowledge of numerous nurses working with children and young people, and its primary purpose is to provide information on the fundamental aspects and essential requirements of nursing care for children, young people and their family or carer. The child or young person is an integral member of the family. Children and young people's nursing care is most effective when it is integrated with the value and belief that family-centred care is crucial. When a child or young person is healthy, the child's health is enhanced if the family is a fully functioning health-promoting system. The family can be made up of many different structures, each with the potential to provide a caring, supportive environment in which the child and/or young person can grow, mature and maximise his or her potential.

This book is remarkable for its honesty about the essential and fundamental aspects of nursing care of babies, children, young people and their families or carers. There are two main questions which we should ask ourselves as nurses who work with babies, children, young people and their families and carers. The first is, do fundamental aspects of nursing care influence the nursing profession? The second, does this book help babies, children, young people and their families to be prepared and recover more effectively?

Scientific evidence in favour of both of these issues is slowly building up. The broader your knowledge about children and young people's nursing, the more interesting you are as a children's nurse, and this allows you to see babies, children and young people in a different way. In addition, I have seen the growth and increased self-confidence of nurses caring for babies, children, young people and their families or carers; their quality of life during this time is fulfilling for all.

The book is designed to support the learning needs of nurses, not only by virtue of its design, but also by the level of knowledge acquisition it facilitates. It must be noted here that by knowledge acquisition I do not simply mean the supply of relevant and up-to-date information – important though this may be. The claim here is that higher levels of knowledge extend beyond the learning environment to absorb and reproduce information in the same form that it is conveyed. It includes the capacity to understand and apply knowledge to nursing practice with babies, children, young people and their families and carers. These are vitally important aspects of knowledge in children and young people's nursing today.

This book provides a sensible compromise between a lengthy discussion of basic sciences on the one hand, and a didactic handbook on the other. It will be an excellent source of information for nurses learning about caring for babies, children, young people and their families and carers, and a useful reference for experienced nurses working with children and young people.

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Fundamental aspects for undertaking nursing procedures with children, young people and their families

Alan Gasper, Diane Gow, Lorraine Ireland and Gill Prudhoe

This chapter identifies areas of practice that must be considered before any procedure can take place to ensure that children and their families receive quality care from competent professional nurses. The areas covered are:

- Consent to treatment
- Risk and child-patient safety
- Dignity and family-centred care
- Privacy
- Comfort
- Safeguarding

All procedures must be accompanied by accurate documentation to demonstrate that the duty of care has been fulfilled, to enable continuity of care, and to show the nurse's professionalism. Part of the preparation for procedures must always be to ensure that health and safety, infection control and local and, if applicable, national policies and procedures are adhered to.

Consent to treatment

The NHS Plan (Department of Health [DH], 2000) identified a need to change the way that patients are asked to give their consent, to ensure that the process is properly focused on the rights of individual patients. Consent is a unifying principle, that represents the legal and ethical expression of the human right to have one's autonomy and self-determination respected (McHale *et al*, 1997). The issue of consent is particularly pertinent to children's and young people's nurses in the wake of the events at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool and the children's cardiac unit at the Bristol Royal Infirmary during the 1990s where consent procedures were shown to be less than optimal (Department of Health, 2001a, Kennedy, 2001).