

they should not hesitate to call if concerns arise before then.

. Ask the family and child, if appropriate, if they have any questions and problem solve with family members to meet their unique needs.

### **Nursing Tip**

Help the family prepare for the transportation home by offering these suggestions:

- Have a blanket and pillow in the car. (Always use the car safety restraint system.)
- Take a basin or plastic bag in case of vomiting.
- Use a cup with a cap and straw for the child to drink fluids (except in cases of oral facial surgery in which a straw may be contraindicated).
- Give any prescribed pain medication before leaving facility.
- Provide parents verbal and written information regarding potential side effects of pain medication for which they should be vigilant after discharge.

### **Isolation**

Admission to an isolation room increases all of the stressors typically associated with hospitalization. There is further separation from familiar persons; additional loss of control; and added environmental changes, such as sensory deprivation and the strange appearance of visitors. Orientation to time and place is affected. These stressors are compounded by children's limited understanding of isolation. Preschool children have difficulty understanding the rationale for isolation, because they cannot comprehend the cause-and-effect relationship between germs and illness. They are likely to view isolation as punishment. Older