



FIG 4-1 Child plays while nurse interviews parents.

Confidentiality is another essential component of the initial phase of the interview. Because the interview is usually shared with other members of the health care team or the teacher (in the case of students), be certain to inform the family of the limits regarding confidentiality. If confidentiality is a concern in a particular situation, such as when talking to a parent suspected of child abuse or a teenager contemplating suicide, deal with this directly and inform the person that in such instances, confidentiality cannot be ensured. However, the nurse judiciously protects information of a confidential nature.

Computer Privacy and Applications in Nursing

The use of computer technology to store and retrieve health information has become widespread; most clinics and hospitals now maintain electronic health records for patients. The health care community is increasingly concerned about the privacy and security of this health information and all nurses are engaged in protecting confidentiality of health care records. Any person accessing confidential health information is charged with managing safeguards for disclosure including password protection to prevent violation of patient privacy and confidentiality.