



FIG 8-11 Father interacting with newborn receiving intensive care.



FIG 8-12 Mother and father interacting with their preterm infant. (Photo courtesy of E. Jacobs, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX.)

Parents of acutely ill preterm infants may express feelings of helplessness and lack of control. Involving the parent in some type of caregiving activity, no matter how minor it may seem to the nurse, enables the parent to “take on” a more active role. Examples