

developmental aspects of each age group dictate particular stresses and risks for the child. The nurse must also recognize that children need to redefine their condition and its implications as they develop and grow. For example, appearance, skills, and abilities are highly valued by peers (Fig. 17-1). A teenager who is limited in any of these qualities is subject to rejection. This is especially marked when an illness interferes with sexual attractiveness.



FIG 17-1 Children with any type of impairment should have the opportunity to develop their skills. (Courtesy of Poyo/Hinton Photography.)

Children's developmental concepts of illness are discussed in [Chapter 19](#). An understanding of these developmental factors facilitates planning care to support the child and minimize the risks. Developmental aspects of chronic illness on children are described in [Table 17-2](#).

TABLE 17-2
Developmental Effects of Chronic Illness or Disability on Children

Developmental Tasks	Potential Effects of Chronic Illness or Disability	Supportive Interventions
Infancy		
Develop a sense of trust	Multiple caregivers and frequent separations, especially if hospitalized	Encourage consistent caregivers in hospital or other care settings.