

individual needs. The home health nurse or case manager has an important role in the support and encouragement for families/caregivers who assume the primary care of a child with CP. Having a child with CP implies numerous problems of daily management and changes in family life. The nurse can help with education, assessment, and mobilization of resources, and can stress principles of normalization.

The nurse can support the parents by acknowledging and addressing their concerns and frustrations; by noting and appreciating their problem-solving skills and their approaches to helping the child. Parents and other family members may need support and counseling. Siblings of a child with a disability are affected and may respond to the child's presence with overt or less evident behavioral problems. The family needs a relationship with nurses who can provide continued contact, support, and encouragement through the long process of habilitation.

Parents may find help and support from parent groups, where they can share experiences, accomplishments, problems, and concerns while deriving comfort and practical information. Parent support groups are most helpful through sharing experiences and accomplishments. For example, parents can learn from others what it is like to have a child with CP, which is generally not possible from professionals (see [Family-Centered Care](#) box).

Family-Centered Care

The Reality of Acceptance of Cerebral Palsy

Acceptance is rarely achieved in the length of time implied in the literature.

In the first place, what is acceptance? To me, it is the end of comparing my son with every other child I see. I focus on *his* gains, not society's expectations.

It is also being able to laugh periodically *at* his “clumsiness.” It is “gallows humor” as he achieves adulthood; jokes about CP can be funny now.

The bitterness is gone; I am now happy for people who have children without CP.

I no longer feel sorry for my son but rather for the people who