

interactions, the family's input is solicited and incorporated into the care plan. Some situations require consideration of special problems (see [Nursing Care Guidelines](#) box).

## **Nursing Care Guidelines**

### **Situations Requiring Special Consideration**

#### **Congenital Anomaly**

Tension in the delivery room conveys the sense that something is seriously wrong. Communication is often delayed while the physician is involved with the mother's care. The manner in which the infant is presented may well set the tone for the early parent–child relationship.

Clarify role with physician in regard to revealing information to enable immediate parental support.

Explain to parents briefly in simple language what the defect is and something concerning the immediate prognosis before showing them the infant. Later more information can be given when they are more ready to “hear” what is said.

Be aware of nonverbal communication. Parents watch facial expressions of others for signs of revulsion or rejection.

Present infant as something precious.

Emphasize well-formed aspects of infant's body.

Allow time and opportunity for parents to express their initial response.

Encourage parents to ask questions and provide honest, straightforward answers without undue optimism or pessimism.

#### **Cognitive Impairment**

Unless cognitive impairment (or mental retardation) is associated