



**FIG 4-32** Position of the heart within the thorax. (From Ball JW, Dains JE, Flynn JA, et al: *Seidel's guide to physical examination*, ed 8, St Louis, 2014, Elsevier.)

Inspection is easiest when the child is sitting in a semi-Fowler position. Look at the anterior chest wall from an angle, comparing both sides of the rib cage with each other. Normally they should be symmetric. In children with thin chest walls, a pulsation may be visible. Because comprehensive evaluation of cardiac function is not limited to the heart, also consider other findings, such as the presence of all pulses (especially the femoral pulses) (Fig. 4-33), distended neck veins, clubbing of the fingers, peripheral cyanosis, edema, blood pressure, and respiratory status.