

such as “Does your teddy bear have a name?” to ease the child into conversation. Other guidelines for communicating with children are in the Nursing Care Guidelines box. Specific guidelines for preparing children for procedures are provided in [Chapter 20](#).

Nursing Care Guidelines

Communicating with Children

- Allow children time to feel comfortable.
- Avoid sudden or rapid advances, broad smiles, extended eye contact, and other gestures that may be seen as threatening.
- Talk to the parent if the child is initially shy.
- Communicate through transition objects (such as dolls, puppets, and stuffed animals) before questioning a young child directly.
- Give older children the opportunity to talk without the parents present.
- Assume a position that is at eye level with the child ([Fig. 4-2](#)).

