

## **Illness and Hospitalization Viewed as Punishment**

Clarify why each procedure is performed; child will find it difficult to understand how medicine can make him or her feel better and can taste bad at the same time.

Ask child thoughts regarding why a procedure is performed.

State directly that procedures are never a form of punishment.

## **Animism**

Keep equipment out of sight except when shown to or used on child.

## **Fears of Bodily Harm, Intrusion, and Castration**

Point out on drawing, doll, or child where procedure is performed.

Emphasize that no other body part will be involved.

Use nonintrusive procedures whenever possible (e.g., axillary temperatures, oral medication).

Apply an adhesive bandage over puncture site.

Encourage parental presence.

Realize that procedures involving genitalia provoke anxiety.

Allow child to wear underpants with gown.

Explain unfamiliar situations, especially noises or lights.

## **Striving for Initiative**

Involve child in care whenever possible (e.g., hold equipment, remove dressing).

Give choices whenever possible but avoid excessive delays.

Praise child for helping and attempting to cooperate; never shame