

out situations, although puppets are usually best for direct conversation.

Play must consider medical needs, but at times, a procedure can be postponed briefly to allow the child to complete a special activity (see [Critical Thinking Case Study](#) box). Play must consider any limitations imposed by the child's condition. For example, small children may eat paste and other creative media; therefore, a child who is allergic to wheat should not be given finger paint made from wallpaper paste or modeling dough made with flour. A child on a restricted salt intake should not play with modeling dough because salt is one of its major constituents. At home, the play program can be planned around the therapy regimen. However, play can be satisfactorily incorporated into the child's care if the nurse and others involved allow some flexibility and use creativity in planning for play.

Critical Thinking Case Study

Playroom and Hospital Procedures

Joel, an 8-year-old with cystic fibrosis, has been hospitalized numerous times with complications from the condition. He is playing a board game with his brother, sister, and several other children in the playroom on the pediatric unit. A pediatric phlebotomist enters the playroom and says, "Joel, I need to take some blood. I can see that you are playing a game, so I'll just do it while you play. It will just take a minute." The playroom is usually off limits for invasive procedures. As Joel's nurse, you are aware that Dr. Lung wants the results of the laboratory studies as soon as possible to make a decision about the course of therapy.

Questions

1. Evidence: Is there sufficient evidence to draw any conclusions about this situation at this time?
2. Assumptions: What are some underlying assumptions about the following: