

Nursing Care Guidelines

Age-Specific Preparation of Children for Procedures Based on Developmental Characteristics

Infant: Developing Trust and Sensorimotor Thought Attachment to Parent

Involve parent in procedure if desired.*

Keep parent in infant's line of vision.

If parent is unable to be with infant, place familiar object with infant (e.g., stuffed toy).

Stranger Anxiety

Have usual caregivers perform or assist with procedure.*

Make advances slowly and in a nonthreatening manner.

Limit number of strangers entering room during procedure.*

Sensorimotor Phase of Learning

During procedure, use sensory soothing measures (e.g., stroking skin, talking softly, giving pacifier).

Use analgesics (e.g., topical anesthetic, intravenous [IV] opioid) to control discomfort.*

Cuddle and hug infant after stressful procedure; encourage parent to comfort infant.

Increased Muscle Control

Expect older infants to resist.