

developmental context. It emphasizes the importance of the nurse's role in health promotion and maintenance and in considering the family as the focus of care. From a developmental perspective, the care of common health problems is presented, giving readers a sense of the normal problems expected in otherwise healthy children and demonstrating when in the course of childhood these problems are most likely to occur. The remainder of the book, [Chapters 17](#) through [30](#), presents the more serious health problems of infancy, childhood, and adolescence that are not specific to any particular age group and that frequently require hospitalization, major medical and nursing intervention, and home care.

UNIT ONE ([Chapters 1](#) through [3](#)) provides a longitudinal view of the child as an individual on a continuum of developmental changes from birth through adolescence and as a member of a family unit maturing within a culture and a community. [Chapter 1](#) includes the latest discussion of morbidity and mortality in infancy and childhood and examines child health care from a historical perspective. Because unintentional injury is one of the leading causes of death in children, an overview of this topic is included. The nursing process, with emphasis on nursing diagnosis and outcomes and on the importance of developing critical thinking skills, is presented. In this edition, the critical components of evidence-based practice are presented to provide the template for exploring the latest pediatric nursing research or practice guidelines throughout the book.

This book is about families with children, and the philosophy of family-centered care is emphasized. This book is also about providing atraumatic care—care that minimizes the psychologic and physical stress that health promotion and illness treatment can inflict. Features such as Evidence-Based Practice, Family-Centered Care, Community Focus, Research Focus, Drug Alert, and Atraumatic Care boxes bring these philosophies to life throughout the text. Finally, the philosophy of delivering nursing care is addressed. We believe strongly that children and families need consistent caregivers. The establishment of the therapeutic relationship with the child and family is explored as the essential foundation for providing quality nursing care.

[Chapter 2](#) provides important information on the family, social