

consider serious health problems of infants and children primarily from the biologic systems orientation, which has the practical organizational value of permitting health problems and nursing considerations to relate to specific pathophysiologic disturbances. The most common serious diseases in children are reviewed in these chapters. Important revisions include discussions of hepatitis, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, blood disorders, cancer, respiratory illnesses including influenza, acute lung injury and respiratory syncytial virus, tuberculosis, asthma, cystic fibrosis, effects of second-hand smoke exposure, seizures, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, and diabetes mellitus. The information on orthopedic and muscular injuries in childhood as a result of sports participation or other injuries has been revised to reflect current treatment modalities. [Chapter 28](#) includes focused attention on type 2 diabetes and the most up to date information on insulin preparations and types of glucose meters.

Unifying Principles

Several unifying principles have guided the organizational structure of this book since its inception. These principles continue to strengthen the book with each revision to produce a text that is consistent in approach throughout each chapter.

The Family as the Unit of Care

The child is an essential member of the family unit. We refer to parents in this book as a mother and/or father but recognize parents include of a variety of individuals and do not undervalue the importance of any parent role or family structure.

Nursing care is most effective when it is delivered with the belief that *the family is the patient*. This belief permeates the book. When a child is healthy, the child's health is enhanced when the family is a fully functioning, health-promoting system. The family unit can be manifested in a myriad of structures; each has the potential to provide a caring, supportive environment in which the child can grow, mature, and maximize his or her human potential. In addition to the integration of family-centered care into every