

approach, students gain an appreciation for the unique characteristics and needs of children at every age and stage of development.

## **Focus on Wellness and Illness: Child, Family, and Community**

In a pediatric nursing text, a focus on illness is expected. Children become ill, and nurses typically are involved in helping children get well. However, it is not sufficient to prepare nursing students to care primarily for sick children. First, health is more than the absence of disease. Being healthy is being whole in mind, body, and spirit. Therefore, the majority of the first half of the book is devoted to discussions that promote physical, emotional, psychosocial, mental, and spiritual wellness. Much emphasis is placed on anticipatory guidance of parents to prevent injury or illness in their children. Second, health care is more than ever prevention focused. The objectives set forth in the *Healthy People 2020* report clearly establish a health care agenda in which solutions to medical and social problems lie in preventive strategies. Third, health care is moving from acute care settings to the community, the home, short-stay centers, and clinics. Nurses must be prepared to function in all settings. To be successful, they must understand the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of health conditions. Competent nursing care flows from this knowledge and is enhanced by an awareness of childhood development, family dynamics, and communication skills.

## **Nursing Care**

Although the information in this text incorporates information from numerous disciplines (medicine, pathophysiology, pharmacology, nutrition, psychology, sociology), its primary purpose is to provide information on the nursing care of children and families.

Discussions of all disorders conclude with a section on Nursing Care Management. In addition, 14 care plans are included. Taken together, they cover the nursing care for many childhood diseases, disorders, and conditions. The purposes of the care plans, like every other feature of the book, are to teach and to convey information.