

jugular vein. This catheter has a dual lumen, which allows a larger volume of blood flow with minimum recirculation. Catheters eliminate the need for skin punctures but require some home care.

Hemodialysis is best suited to children who do not have someone in the family who is able to perform home peritoneal dialysis and to those who live close to a dialysis center. The procedure is usually performed three times per week for 4 to 6 hours, depending on the child's size. Studies suggest that intensified hemodialysis (shorter sessions done 5 to 7 days weekly or longer sessions done overnight three to seven times weekly) may improve outcomes ([Thumfart, Pommer, Querfeld, et al, 2014](#)). Hemodialysis achieves rapid correction of fluid and electrolyte abnormalities but can cause problems in association with this rapid change, such as muscle cramping and hypotension. Disadvantages include school absence during dialysis and strict fluid and dietary restrictions between dialysis sessions. Boredom for the child and family is often a problem during dialysis, and planned activities should be introduced ([Fig. 26-7](#)).



FIG 26-7 Diversional activities help lessen the boredom children can experience during hemodialysis.