

Approach Behaviors

Asks for information regarding diagnosis and child's present condition

Seeks help and support from others

Anticipates future problems; actively seeks guidance and answers

Endows the chronic illness or complex condition with meaning

Shares burden of disorder with others

Plans realistically for the future

Acknowledges and accepts child's awareness of diagnosis and prognosis

Expresses feelings (such as sorrow, depression, and anger) and realizes reason for the emotional reaction

Realistically perceives child's condition; adjusts to changes

Recognizes own growth through passage of time, such as earlier denial and non-acceptance of diagnosis

Verbalizes possible loss of child

Avoidance Behaviors

Fails to recognize seriousness of child's condition despite physical evidence

Refuses to agree to treatment

Intellectualizes about the illness but in areas unrelated to child's condition

Is angry and hostile to members of the staff regardless of their attitude or behavior

Avoids staff, family members, or child