

Overview of Pediatric Nursing

Introduction:-

The nurse is one of the important components of the health team in caring for children. The pediatric nurse gives direct bedside care to sick children, guide families in their care for their children during health and illness, in hospitals and at homes.

Definition of pediatric nursing:-

Pediatrics can be defined as the branch of medical science that deals with the care of children from conception to adolescence in health and illness. It is concerned with preventive, promote, curative and rehabilitative care of children.

Concept of pediatric nursing: -

Pediatric nursing is the specialized area of nursing practice concerning the care of children during wellness and illness. It includes preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative care of children. It emphasizes on all around development of body mind and spirit of the growing individual.

Goals of pediatric nursing

- ☐ To provide skillful, intelligent, need based comprehensive care to the children in health and sickness.
- ☐ To interpret the basic needs of the children to their parents and family members and to guide them in childcare.
- ☐ To promote growth and development of children towards optimum state of health for functioning at the peak of their capacity in future.
- ☐ To prevent disease and alleviate suffering in children.

Qualities of good pediatric nurse:-

- ☐ ☐ Good observer.
- ☐ ☐ Honest and truthful.
- ☐ ☐ Sympathetic, kind, patient and cheerful.

- ☐ ☐ Love to work with children.
- ☐ ☐ Interested in family care.
- ☐ ☐ Able to provide teaching to children and their families.

Role of Pediatric Nurse:-

- ☐ ☐ Primary roles
- ☐ ☐ Secondary roles
- ☐ ☐ Differentiated practice roles
- ☐ ☐ Advanced practice role

Primary roles

☐ ☐ **Caregiver:** helping patient, diagnosing , monitoring and administering therapeutic intervention

☐ ☐ **Advocate:** assist family and children to make informed decisions, The pediatric nurse can assist family and children to make informed decisions and choose appropriate solutions to their problems. Also, attention to patients' safety and protecting patients from harm.

☐ ☐ **Educator:** The pediatric nurse can maintain child's health, help the child to achieve his optimal growth and development and prevent diseases and their complications through health education to the child and his parents about healthy lifestyle, behavior, and attitude to develop healthful practice regarding child care.

☐ ☐ **Researcher:** nursing research is an integral part of professional nursing. Pediatric nurse should participate or perform research projects related to child health, include identifying problem areas; collecting, analyzing and interpreting data, applying findings; and evaluating, designing and conducting research

☐ ☐ **Manager or leader:** The pediatric nurse is the manager of pediatric care units in hospital, clinics and community. She/he should organize the care orderly for successful outcome with better prognosis and good health. The manager who plans, gives direction, developing staff, monitoring operations, giving rewards fairly and representing both staff member and administration as needed.

The nurse can maintain child's health, help the child to achieve his optimal growth and development and prevent diseases and their complications through health education to the child and his parents.

Secondary roles

☐ ☐ **Coordinator and Collaborator:** pediatric nurse should work together and in combination with other health team members towards better child health care. She/he should act as liaison among the members and maintain good interpersonal relationship. The nurse interprets the objectives of health care to the family and co-ordinates nursing services with other services necessary for the child. She/he collaborates with other health care members, social service agencies, judicial systems and schools to ensure holistic care.

☐ ☐ **Communicator:** To care for infants and children, nurse must communicate effectively with children and their families. Using play and other creative and developmentally appropriate communication techniques can help nurse in this effort.

☐ ☐ **Consultant:** The pediatric nurse can act as consultant to guide the parents and family members for maintenance and promotion of health and prevention of childhood illness. The nurse can help the older children to become responsible for their own lives and assist them in developing the ways of self-care and self-responsibility.

The nurse has to provide care to sick children and their families by:

- ☐ ☐ Assessing their needs.
- ☐ ☐ Planning for their care .
- ☐ ☐ Implementing the nursing care plan.
- ☐ ☐ Evaluating children's condition and the plan of care
- ☐ ☐ Providing health teaching to children and their parents

Differentiated practice roles

- ☐ ☐ Clinical care coordinator (associate degree)
- ☐ ☐ Care manager (BS degree)
- ☐ ☐ Clinical nurse (master degree)

The nurse should assist children to return to their maximal level of functioning following illness and or disabilities.

Advanced practice role

- ☐ ☐ Nurse practitioner
- ☐ ☐ Clinical nurse specialist
- ☐ ☐ Case manager

Concept of Child Care:

Health is a fundamental right of every human being —A healthy child becomes a healthy citizen and a healthy citizen makes a healthy nation.