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ROLE OF PEDIATRIC NURSE IN CHILD CARE

The role of the pediatric nurse is constantly changing. These changes are as a result of expanding medical and nursing practice, emerging challenges in different aspects of child care, consumer demands & technological advancements.

The role of the pediatric nurse may vary from one institution to others, but basic responsibilities remain the same.

Roles of pediatric nurse are

1. Primary care giver
2. Coordinator and collaborator
3. Advocate
4. Health educator
5. Consultant
6. Counselor
7. Case Manager
8. Recreationist
9. Social worker and
10. Researcher

1. **Primary care giver:** Pediatric nurse should provide preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative care in all levels of health services.

In hospital, care of sick children includes comfort, feeding, bathing, safety etc.

At community set up, basic responsibilities include health assessment, immunization, primary health care & referral etc.

2. Coordinator & Collaborator: The nurse plays an extremely important role with the combination of health care team members. Nurse maintains good interpersonal communication with the child, family and health team members.

The nurse coordinates nursing care with other services for meeting the needs of child. For ex: physician, social worker, surgeon, physiotherapist, dietician etc.

3. Nurse Advocate: The pediatric nurse acts as an advocate to safeguard the child's right, to assist & to provide best care from the health care team.

Nurse acts as a representative for the child, family & other health care providers. Ex: it can range from consulting dietary department for special foods to arrange team meeting to discuss plan of care with other health team members.

4. Health Health Educator: The nurse's goal of health teaching is to provide information to the childparents and significant other about prevention of illness, promotion or health maintenance.

Characteristics of nurse teacher includes

4 C's

C — Confidence

C — Competence

C — Communication

C — Caring & empathy

5. Nurse Consultant: The pediatric nurse can act as consultant to guide parents for maintenance and promotion of health. For ex: Guiding parents about feeding practices, accident prevention

6. Nurse Counselor: Providing guidance to parents in health hazards of children and healththem for own decision making in different situations.

7. Case Manager: The pediatric nurse should organize care, monitor and

evaluate patient treatment for successful outcome. She/he acts as a manager of pediatric care units in hospital clinics and community.

8. **.Recreationist:** The pediatric nurse plays supportive role for the child to provide play facilities for recreation and diversion. It helps to decrease crisis imposed by illness or hospitalization

9. **Social Worker:** Pediatric nurse can participate in social services or refer child & family to child welfare agencies for necessary support.

10. **Nurse researcher:** Research is an integral part of professional nursing. Pediatric nurse should participate or perform research activities. It helps to provide basis for changes in nursing practice, improvement in the child health care and evaluate the care.