

The Pediatric Nursing Mindset

As a part of research to explore elements of continuing competence for pediatric nursing professionals, PNCB validated the tenets of a Pediatric Nursing Mindset with more than 12,000 nurses, nurse practitioners, and employers. They overwhelmingly believed that the following tenets were descriptive of and essential to pediatric nursing practice.

NOT JUST "A CHILD'S NURSE"

Pediatric nurses are not just nurses who work with children. A pediatric nurse brings a mindset that embraces the uniqueness of each individual child. The Pediatric Nurse Mindset acknowledges that children are not "small adults" but rather have unique characteristics based on their age and stage of development from infancy through adolescence.



THE BASICS

The pediatric nurse or nurse practitioner with this Mindset:

- Promotes health throughout all stages of childhood development.
- Provides care for children with special understanding of their emotional, social, spiritual and physiological development.
- Applies knowledge of childhood-specific illness, pediatric medications, and therapies.
- Educates and involves the family in treatment and care.
- Promotes healthy family interactions.

YOU HELPED EXPAND THE MINDSET!

Based on certificant feedback and validation, we added these tenets as representing the unique abilities of the pediatric nursing professional:

- Ability to utilize a flexible set of assessment and communication skills, equipment and techniques for the pediatric patient.
- Use of specialty expertise to recognize and respond to the child who has life-threatening symptoms.
- Management of multiple, complex relationships between health care providers, family members and patients.
- Ability to communicate on different cognitive/developmental levels in same setting with children, family members, and other stakeholders.
- Capacity for empathy – understanding the thinking, lived experience and emotions of children and adolescents and respect them as individuals.
- Recognition of the environmental context and family choices in order to improve child health, which is tied to the health of the family.



YOUR PEDIATRIC FOCUS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Pediatric nurses fulfill all of the same roles as general nurses, including bedside care, managing nursing interventions, and facilitating education.

What makes a pediatric nurse different from other nursing staff is that they represent the best resource to support optimal child health.