



Nursing Management of a Developmentally Compromised Child

Mary Anbarasi Johnson**Professor and Head, Pediatric Nursing Department, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, India****Corresponding Author:** Mary Anbarasi Johnson, Professor and Head, Pediatric Nursing Department, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, India.**DOI:** 10.31080/ASCR.2024.05.0497**Received:** November 21, 2023**Published:** December 12, 2023© All rights are reserved by **Mary Anbarasi Johnson**.**Abstract**

Nursing management of a developmentally compromised child involves a holistic approach to address the physical, emotional, and social needs of the child and their family. Developmental compromise can result from various factors, such as congenital conditions, neurological disorders, or environmental influences. Here are some key aspects of nursing management for a developmentally compromised child. Some of the issues most commonly labeled as developmental disabilities include intellectual disabilities (low IQ), autism, and cerebral palsy.

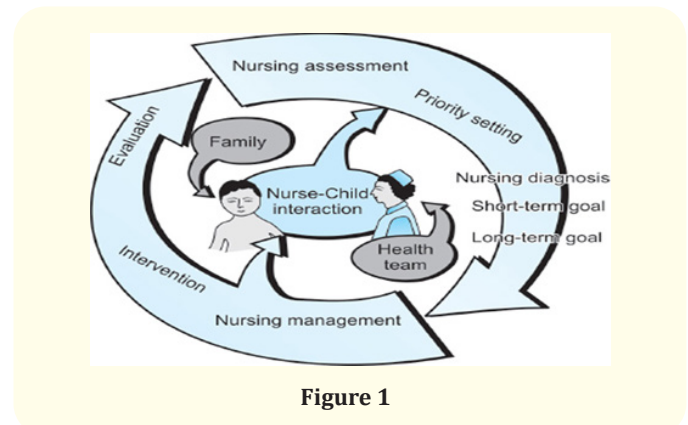
Keywords: Nursing Management; Disabilities; Children**Introduction**

Many professionals describe developmental disabilities as physical, emotional, or intellectual disorders that start before birth or in early childhood. However, it's a tricky definition because the terms developmental disability, neurodevelopmental disability, developmental delay, and learning disability are very close in meaning and often overlap [1]. Children with developmental delays are often born with them. "Issues may emerge later in life with similar outcomes, but they are called acquired disabilities," explains Rebecca Mannis, PhD, a learning specialist and consultant at Ivy Prep Learning Center.

When interacting with a practitioner who is assessing your child's challenges, it's important to remember that different practitioners may use different terms to describe the same thing. While developmental disabilities are often lifelong, early diagnosis and treatment can make a tremendous difference in a child's life. Even when challenges persist, practitioners can provide tools and suggest accommodations.

Nursing management of a developmentally challenged child
Assessment

- Conduct a thorough developmental assessment to identify the child's strengths and areas of delay.
- Use appropriate developmental screening tools to assess the child's cognitive, motor, language, and social-emotional development.

**Figure 1****Individualized care plan**

- Develop an individualized care plan based on the child's specific developmental needs.
- Collaborate with a multidisciplinary team, including pediatricians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists, to create a comprehensive plan.

Family-centered care

- Involve the family in the care planning process and provide support and education to help them understand and meet the child's developmental needs.
- Encourage open communication and address any concerns or questions the family may have [2].

Nutritional support

- Monitor and support the child’s nutritional needs, considering any feeding difficulties or special dietary requirements.
- Collaborate with a pediatric nutritionist to ensure the child receives appropriate nutrition for optimal growth and development.

Medication management

- Administer medications as prescribed by the healthcare provider to manage symptoms or conditions associated with developmental compromise.
- Monitor for side effects and educate the family about the purpose and potential effects of medications.

Therapeutic interventions

- Facilitate and coordinate therapeutic interventions, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, to address specific developmental challenges.
- Encourage and support the child in engaging in age-appropriate activities that promote development.

Emotional support

- Provide emotional support to both the child and their family, recognizing the impact of developmental compromise on psychosocial well-being.
- Collaborate with child life specialists or psychologists to address emotional and behavioral needs [3].

Education and advocacy

- Educate the family about the child’s developmental milestones and how to promote development at home.
- Advocate for the child’s needs within the healthcare system, educational institutions, and community resources [4,5].

Conclusion

A Developmentally challenged child faces enormous amount of challenges compared to any other child. Parent also face problems in terms of understanding the child's condition, adapting to the expectations in growing up the child , changes in family routines, financial constraints , new hospital environment etc. Pediatric nurses working in the unit need to be compassionate and committed to the demands of the child and parents due to their child's hospitalization. Periodical staff development programs conducted in the unit will enhance their knowledge about care of these children .There needs to be also sessions arranged for the staff nurses to ventilate their stress and avoid staff burn out.

Bibliography

1. <https://www.verywellfamily.com/what-are-developmental-disabilities-2162827>
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. “Developmental Surveillance and Screening of Infants and Young Children” (2019).
3. Hockenberry MJ and Wilson D. “Wong’s Nursing Care of Infants and Children” (2018).
4. Shelov SP. “Caring for Your Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age 5” (2019).
5. National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAP-NAP). “Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics: A Handbook for Primary Care” (2019).