LECTURE OBJECTIVES:

- Identify the scope of and changing trends in care of children with special needs.
- Identify the major reactions of and effects on the family with a child with a special need.
- Define the stages of adjustment to the diagnosis of a chronic condition.
- Recognize the impact of the illness or disability on the developmental stages of childhood.
- Discuss nursing interventions that promote the family’s optimum adjustment to the child’s chronic disorder.
- Outline nursing interventions that support the family at the time of death.
- Define the usual/normal symptoms of grief.

READING ASSIGNMENT:


LECTURE OUTLINE:

I. Perspectives on the Care of Children with Special Needs
   A. Scope of the Problem
   B. Trends in Care
      1. Developmental focus
2. Family-centered care
3. Family health care provider communication
4. Establishing therapeutic relationships
5. The role of culture in family-centered-care
6. Shared decision making
7. Normalization
8. Managed care

II. The Family of the Child with Special Needs

A. Impact of Child’s Chronic Illness of Disability
   1. Parents
   2. Parental roles
   3. Mother/Father differences
   4. Single-parent families
   5. Siblings
   6. Extended family members and society

B. Coping with Ongoing Stress and Periodic Crisis
   1. Concurrent stresses within the family
   2. Coping mechanisms
   3. Parental empowerment

C. Assisting Family Members in Managing their Feelings
   1. Shock and denial
   2. Adjustment
3. Reintegration and acknowledgment
4. Establishing a support system

III. The Child with Special Needs
   Impact of Chronic Illness of Disability on the Child

   A. Developmental Aspects
      1. Infant
      2. Toddler
      3. Preschooler
      4. School-age child
      5. Adolescent

   B. Coping Mechanisms
      1. Hopefulness
      2. Health education and self-care

   C. Responses to Parental Behavior

   D. Type of Illness or Disability

IV. Nursing Care of the Family and Child with Special Needs

   A. Assessment

   B. Nursing Diagnosis

   C. Planning

   D. Implementation
      1. Provide support at the time of diagnosis
      2. Accept family’s emotional reactions
3. Support family’s coping methods

4. Advocate for empowerment

5. Educate about the disorder and general health care

6. Promote normal development

7. Establish realistic goals

E. Evaluation

F. Expected Outcomes

V. Perspectives on Care of Children at the End of Life

A. Principles of Palliative Care

B. Decision Making at the End of Life
   1. Ethical considerations in end-of-life decision making
   2. Physician/health care team decision making
   3. Parental decision making

C. The Dying Child

D. Treatment Options for Terminally Ill Children
   1. Hospital
   2. Home care
   3. Hospice care

VI. Nursing Care of the Child and family at the End of Life

A. Fear of Pain and Suffering
   1. Pain/symptom management
2. Parents’ and siblings’ need for education and support

B. Fear of Dying Alone or of Not Being Present when the Child Dies

C. Fear of Actual Death
   1. Home deaths
   2. Hospital deaths

D. Grief and Mourning

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES:

1. Study Guide: Chapter 41
2. Electronic Images: 475-478
3. CD Companion:
   - Critical Thinking Exercise—Neonatal Loss
   - Case Studies—The Dying Child
   - Nursing Care Plan—The Child Who is Terminally Ill or Dying
   - NCLEX Review Questions
4. Evolve Website:
   - Case Study—Osteomyelitis
   - NCLEX Review Questions