

Chapter 2

Social, Cultural, and Religious Influences on Child Health Promotion

CULTURE

The Child and Family in North America

- Social Roles
 - Helps create child's self-concept

Primary- and Secondary- Group Influences

- Family
- Religious communities
- Ethnic communities
- Peer groups

Self-Esteem and Culture

- Internal or external locus of control
- Self-evaluation of abilities

Cultural Shock

- Inability to respond to/function in a new situation
- Can occur when the values and beliefs differ
- Language barriers
- Habits and customs, attitudes and beliefs are puzzling
- Isolation, loneliness, and fear

Gaining Cultural Competence

1. Examine your world view.
2. Become familiar with core cultural issues.
3. Become knowledgeable about cultural groups.
4. Become familiar with core cultural issues related to health and illness.
5. Develop a relationship of trust and a welcoming atmosphere.
6. Negotiate for mutually acceptable interventions of care.

SUBCULTURAL INFLUENCES

- Ethnicity
- Social class
- Occupational role
- Schools
- Peer group

Communities

- Four categories of external assets that youth receive from the community
 - Support
 - Empowerment
 - Boundaries and expectations
 - Constructive use of time

Internal Assets Received from Communities

- Commitment to learning
- Positive values that direct their choices
- Social competencies
- Positive identity

Social Capital

- It is the total sum of relationships that affect health and well-being.
- It is the way people mobilize resources and allow them to turn relationships into resources.
- Focus is on the interaction rather than specific supports.
- Social capital is related to positive health outcomes.

Nursing Actions to Increase Social Capital

- Bring families, community members, and professionals together for a common purpose.
- Encourage repeated contacts over time.
- Encourage storytelling.
- Advocate for community experiences that enhance health-promoting behaviors.

Other Cultural Factors

- Peer cultures
- Biculture
 - Language considerations

Communication Influences

- Mass media
- Reading materials
- Movies
- Television

SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCES

- Poverty
 - Lack of adequate resources
 - Visible poverty
 - Invisible poverty
- Homelessness
- Migrant families

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

- Cultural relativity
 - Behavior must be judged within context of culture
- Cultural factors influence response to health care

Relationships with Health Care Providers

- Differences among groups
 - Time orientation
 - Gender/parental expectations

Communication

- Verbal
- Nonverbal

HEALTH BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Food customs
 - Symbols of various cultural, ethnic, and religious groups
- Health beliefs and practices

Cultural Traditions to Maintain, Protect, and Restore Health

- Physical aspects of caring for the body
 - Special clothes
 - Foods
 - Medicines
- Feelings, attitudes, rituals, actions related to health
- Spiritual aspects of health
 - Identity (who I am)
 - Customs/prayers/healing

Health Practices

- Natural forces
- Supernatural forces
- Health protection
- Imbalance of forces

Importance of Cultural Competence

- Learn about and develop understanding of cultures
- Sensitivity to effects of culture on patient care

CULTURAL AWARENESS

HEREDITARY FACTORS

- Hereditary factors
 - Genetic differences
 - Socioeconomic status
- Physical characteristics
 - Pigmentation
 - Stature

Religious Influences

- Religious beliefs
- Religious rituals occurring in the health care setting