

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

pediatric nursing, one of the applied specialties of nursing, is focused on mental and emotional needs with the simultaneous satisfaction of their physical and health needs. The core philosophy of current pediatric nursing is family-centered care (FCC) striving to support families in their natural caring roles that builds upon unique strengths of individuals and entire families. Yet journal articles concerned with FCC are rather sporadic.

The main FCC principles are (1) respect and dignity, typically characterized by listening to opinions of parents and children, listening to their values and beliefs, understanding their cultural background, all of which are individual for each family; (2) sharing complete and unbiased information with parents and children; (3) participation that promotes engagement of parents and cooperation with them; and (4) evaluation by parents and children.

Adherence to the FCC principles results in positive effects such as fewer hospital stays of children, fewer children requiring acute treatment, shorter recovery from diseases, reduced emotional stress of both children and their parents, or better communication between families and health professionals.

The FCC philosophy has been gradually introduced into practice in the Czech Republic. Pediatric nurses acknowledge the benefits of parental participation in caring for ill children but at the same time they point to complicating aspects, namely parents' "lack of expertise", unwillingness to be involved in care for children and decision-making, legal responsibility of nurses caring for children, and their effort to maintain a professional distance from parents.

It is advisable to regularly monitor parental perception of adherence to the FCC principles in the provision of nursing care, update the results and continue with professional discussions. Subsequent comparison of such outcomes in journals may support targeted interventions leading to improvements in care for children. The *Central European Journal of Nursing and Midwifery* regularly publishes articles on pediatric nursing care. In 2016, a special issue of the journal focused on pediatric nursing issues will be published.

Lucie Sikorová

Member, Editorial Board

*Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Medicine
University of Ostrava, Czech Republic*