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Improving Respiratory Management in Children: A collaborative approach to using pediatric specific supplies.

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Improving Respiratory Management in Children: A collaborative approach using pediatric specific supplies. Sarah McVay, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor Patti McFadden, PhD, RN, SANE-A, Associate Professor Division of Nursing, Louisiana Tech University Respiratory infections in infants account for the majority of acute illnesses and emergency situations in children. The anatomy and physiology and size of the infant and young child predispose the risk of airway impairment and occlusions. Respiratory equipment is unique for this population and range is a variety of sizes, shapes and colors to promote correct use and compliance for the child and family. The intent is to enhance pediatric simulation equipment for a more realistic clinical experience in the area of pediatrics for nursing students enrolled in Child Health Maintenance courses. The introduction of pediatric specific respiratory equipment was implemented during didactic teaching on campus along with collaboration at Willis-Knighton Healthcare System simulation which currently has a lack of these age appropriate respiratory tools. Students were able to experience a greater sense of realism to better prepare them for actual client interactions in an enhanced simulation environment that provides actual equipment used in the healthcare field. In the Child Health Maintenance course, one of the expected student learning outcomes is to demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills for collaborative interactions within multi-disciplinary teams in planning and providing safe nursing care to children. Utilizing respiratory supplies in simulated clinical scenarios provides students a better understanding in the application of evidence-based practice to ensure family-centered care. Simulation and hands on learning provides an engaging atmosphere that as an integral component of the curriculum in the Division of Nursing, providing an environment of safety in which skills can be mastered, communication techniques and therapeutic approach can be practiced, and questions can be answered in an environment that is faculty proctored, peer-friendly, and centered in a simulating learning environment. The realistic experience decreases anxiety and promote confidence in student nurses. This confidence is then reproduced in a live setting such as the hospital or pediatric clinic settings.

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