

COMMUNITY NURSING CARE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

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OPSOMMING

Die mees doeltreffende sorg vir die geestesvertraagde is die omvattende gesinsgeoriënteerde sorg van die multidisiplinêre span.

As lid van hierdie span is die gemeenskapsverpleegkundige besig met die voorkoming van geestesvertraagtheid en die bevordering van normalisering deur stimulerings van gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid en die hantering van individuele gevalle.

Die oogmerk van gemeenskapsverpleegkunde is die daargestelling van 'n gelukkige en gesonde gesins-omgewing vir die geestesvertraagde in die gemeenskap en die rehabilitasie van geïnstitusioneeliseerde geestesvertraagdes in die gemeenskapslewe.

Community care for the mentally retarded takes cognisance of the many facets of care required and available for the mentally retarded.

Community care may be regarded as care provided by the general public for the mentally retarded in their midst as well as care provided by the professionals, particularly health and teaching professions, for the mentally retarded in the community.

Tasks of the Community Nurse are:-

- Co-ordination of services for the mentally retarded
- Education of public and professionals
- Assessment and planning
- Counselling and support
- Training and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded for community living
- Placement in the community and supervision.

In order to facilitate the aforementioned optimum care the nurse functions as a member of a multidisciplinary team, which includes a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, occupational therapist, physiotherapist and teacher.

At times this team may include other professionals in the community e.g. health visitor, general practitioner, outside social welfare agency, minister of religion, etc.

The multidisciplinary team approach is currently viewed as the only way of providing all the requirements for the mentally retarded. Two influential reports point towards such an approach:-

- The Report of the Committee on Child Health Services (England, 1976)⁽¹⁾ and
- Special Educational Needs - Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Education of Handicapped Children and Young People, 1978.⁽²⁾

The aim of the multidisciplinary team is to provide support in order that the mentally retarded and his family may live a full and happy life.

"Albert Kushlick recognised that parents provide the best caring service for mentally retarded children".⁽³⁾

Parents can give the child love, bonding and socialisation experiences, especially teaching them the norms and values of society, which cannot be learnt in an institution.

This defines the community nurse's task further, into one which aims at keeping the mentally retarded child in his home environment with as little time as possible spent in institutions.

Years of institutionalisation and custodial care have left a legacy of persons whom the nurse, today, must rehabilitate into family life and the community.

The daily discovery of clients of all ages, in the community, whose training and education have been neglected, is yet another area in which the nurse is active in rehabilitation.

THE NURSE'S ROLE REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND PROMOTING OF CARE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED BY THE COMMUNITY

1. As with all health problems *prevention* is better than cure and the nurse must educate and guide the community in this regard.

The authorities and the general public, particularly potential parents, need to be made aware of the medical and psycho-social factors which can increase the incidence of mental retardation. Alcoholism in the mother and malnutrition of the infant are but two high risk medical conditions.

Social stress e.g. poor housing, insufficient income, may cause emotional problems in the family

Nursing The Mentally Retarded

**United States. Congress. Senate.
Committee on Finance**



Nursing The Mentally Retarded:

Nursing the Mentally Retarded John Gibson, Thomas French (S.R.N.), 1958 **Nursing Role in Counseling Parents of Mentally Retarded Children** Ilse S. Wolff, 1964 **A Positive Approach** Ruthanna Penny, 1962 **Mental Retardation** Judith Bickley Curry, Kathryn Kluss Peppe, 1978 **A Psychiatric Nursing Program for Mentally Retarded Children** Tina Faye Keele, 1960 A Guide for Public Health Nurses Working with Mentally Retarded Children Marian M. Holtgrewe, 1964 *Sexual Sterilization of the Mentally Retarded* James J. Kopp, 1981 Mental Deficiency Nursing. Nursing the Mentally Retarded. 2nd Ed John GIBSON (M.D., and FRENCH (Thomas)), Thomas French, 1967

Administration and public witnesses United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Finance, 1970 *Core Curriculum for Specializing in Intellectual and Developmental Disability* Wendy M. Nehring, 2005 The first interdisciplinary text on health issues concerning persons of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities designed for the classroom

Hearings, Reports and Prints of the Senate Committee on Finance United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Finance, 1970 Advance Data from Vital and Health Statistics , 1995 *Advance Data from Vital & Health Statistics of the National Center for Health Statistics* , 1976 *Vital and Health Statistics* , 1989 **Social Security Amendments of 1970** United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Finance, 1970 **Cumulated Index Medicus** , 1987 **Work Stress and Health of Nursing Staff for the Mentally Retarded** C. H. Browner, University of California, Los Angeles. Mental Retardation Research Center. Socio-Behavioral Group, 1985 United States Code United States, 2013 The United States Code is the official codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States of America The Code was first published in 1926 and a new edition of the code has been published every six years since 1934 The 2012 edition of the Code incorporates laws enacted through the One Hundred Twelfth Congress Second Session the last of which was signed by the President on January 15 2013 It does not include laws of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress First Session enacted between January 2 2013 the date it convened and January 15 2013 By statutory authority this edition may be cited U S C 2012 ed As adopted in 1926 the Code established prima facie the general and permanent laws of the United States The underlying statutes reprinted in the Code remained in effect and controlled over the Code in case of any discrepancy In 1947 Congress began enacting individual titles of the Code into positive law When a title is enacted into positive law the underlying statutes are repealed and the title then becomes legal evidence of the law Currently 26 of the 51 titles in the Code have been so enacted These are identified in the table of titles near the beginning of each volume The Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives continues to prepare legislation pursuant to 2 U S C 285b to enact the remainder of the Code on a title by title basis into positive law The 2012 edition of the Code was prepared and published under the supervision of Ralph V Seep Law Revision Counsel Grateful acknowledgment is made of the contributions by all who helped in this work particularly the staffs of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel and the Government Printing Office Preface

Congressional Record United States. Congress, 1975

Catalog National Medical Audiovisual Center, 1981

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Table of Contents Nursing The Mentally Retarded

1. Understanding the eBook Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Nursing The Mentally Retarded User Reviews and Ratings
 - Nursing The Mentally Retarded and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Nursing The Mentally Retarded Free and Paid eBooks
 - Nursing The Mentally Retarded Public Domain eBooks
 - Nursing The Mentally Retarded eBook Subscription Services
 - Nursing The Mentally Retarded Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating Nursing The Mentally Retarded eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Nursing The Mentally Retarded Compatibility with Devices
 - Nursing The Mentally Retarded Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Interactive Elements Nursing The Mentally Retarded
8. Staying Engaged with Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Nursing The Mentally Retarded
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Nursing The Mentally Retarded
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Setting Reading Goals Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Nursing The Mentally Retarded
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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