

# Creative Approaches to Undergraduate Pediatric Nursing Clinical Education



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## BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

Numerous challenges to providing adequate pediatric clinical experiences

- Ⓞ Difficulty recruiting and retaining faculty
- Ⓞ Decreasing curricular content
- Ⓞ Increasing competition for decreasing clinical sites
- Ⓞ Changing demographics of the pediatric population

## PURPOSE

- Ⓞ Meet learning needs through creative and pedagogically sound strategies
- Ⓞ Advance undergraduate pediatric nursing clinical education as supported by the recommendations of 2011 Institute of Pediatric Nursing Forum

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Ⓞ Partnerships formed with local public schools, Head Start program, & a therapeutic riding center for equine-assisted activities and therapy
- Ⓞ Pediatric nursing faculty collaborated with other health professions faculty (OT, PT, SW) on an interdisciplinary play group for toddlers across a wide spectrum of developmental abilities
- Ⓞ Senior nursing students rotated through the local children's hospital, the university's Interprofessional Simulation and Innovation Center, & the various community-based experiences
- Ⓞ Range of clinical activities
  - Ⓞ direct care & observation
  - Ⓞ health screenings
  - Ⓞ provide developmentally-appropriate health-related educational activities
  - Ⓞ interact with children through play

## STUDENT REFLECTIONS

- Ⓞ "Really fascinating to see children of different ages in the setting of play."
- Ⓞ "Interesting to see such a difference in development."
- Ⓞ "Great experience to see kids playing in a social setting and all their different behaviors."
- Ⓞ "Surprised at how many OTs/PTs involved... great to hear their side of caring for these individuals."
- Ⓞ "Had no idea that these programs exist... this would be a great resource to know about for future patients."
- Ⓞ "Important for nurses to recognize & refer clients to this alternative therapy."
- Ⓞ "Made me think outside the box in terms of working with children."
- Ⓞ "Observing & working with children in a setting they are comfortable in allows us to be prepared when we are working with them in a more vulnerable state."
- Ⓞ "Overall, this clinical rotation has not only taught me to be more aware of the types of therapy available for those patients with disabilities, delays in, or complications with development, but the effect it has on them & how we as nurses can use that knowledge in our practice."

## IMPLICATIONS

- Ⓞ Students now more aware of the variety of settings for providing evidence-based interprofessional care for children to promote optimal growth & development
- Ⓞ Students recognize the importance of team-based family-centered health promotion in the community
- Ⓞ Rich descriptions in student reflective journals confirm the benefits of the alternative experiences
- Ⓞ Community partners have benefitted from the students' provision of much needed health promotion services

