Child Welfare is the promotion of child well-being and the protection from harm. The issue of child welfare is important to pediatric nurses and to the health care of children. The efforts of the Society of Pediatric Nurses with regard to child welfare are rooted in the need to make children, and children’s health, a national priority. Children may be vulnerable for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, human trafficking, social determinants of health, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning (one’s sexual or gender identity), intersex, and asexual/aromantic/agender(LGBTQA) concerns, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). The assessment of a family’s resources to ensure adequate support is essential. The pediatric nurse is in the key position to identify the needs of children, assess children’s vulnerabilities, provide trauma informed care, advocate for rights, and ensure protection.

Position

1. Assess each pediatric client for threats to welfare to ensure needs for health are being met to promote optimum growth and development.

2. Advocate for all children to ensure appropriate resources are provided.

3. Know local laws, regulations, and policies/procedures for reporting of suspected child abuse/neglect, and report suspected abuse/neglect in accordance with these statutes.

4. Encourage educational offerings for parents and children.

5. Work closely with social services and other social workers to ensure seamless care, appropriate counseling, and connection to key community resources.

6. Encourage agencies to have the resources available to meet the social, financial, and emotional needs of vulnerable children.

7. Support legislation to enhance services which emphasize child health and welfare.

8. Develop partnerships between healthcare agencies (e.g., children’s hospitals, community hospitals), community and social service agencies, advocates, and children and their families to ensure communication of needs, the provision of resources, and service delivery to vulnerable populations of children.
RESOURCES

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org/

Child Trends
www.childtrends.org

Child Welfare Information Gateway
www.childwelfare.gov

Child Welfare League of America
http://www.cwla.org/

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
www.napnap.org

National Association of School Nurses
www.nasn.org

The National Campaign to Prevent Teenage and Unplanned Pregnancy
http://thenationalcampaign.org/

US Department of Health and Human Services
- Administration for Children and Families
  www.acf.hhs.gov/
- Children’s Bureau
  www.acf.hhs.gov/cb

REFERENCES


https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/about.html
