

Definition of Pediatric Nursing

In its position paper „Professionelle Pflege Schweiz. Perspektive 2020“^{1, 2}, the SBK (Schweizer Berufsverband für Pflegefachpersonal) supports the following content as a definition for professional nursing³ :

„Professional care promotes and maintains health, prevents damage to health and supports people during treatment and while dealing with the effects of disease and therapies. The aim is to achieve the best possible outcomes in treatment and care for people as well as the best possible quality-of-life in all phases of life until death“.

This definition serves a basis for the subsequent description and definition of pediatric nursing in Switzerland.

Definition Pediatric Nursing

Pediatric nursing encompasses patient-centred, needs-oriented and preventive care for children from birth to 18 years of age. In order to comprehensively care for this broad spectrum of patients at various stages of development, pediatric nurses need, in addition to well-founded theoretical, evidence-based knowledge, in-depth skills in the care of premature babies, newborn children, infants, preschool and school-age children, as well as adolescents in the early, middle and late stages of adolescence⁴.

The guarantee of a holistic, family-centred care^{5,6}, which is based on the rights of the child in the hospital⁷, forms the foundation for motional and developmental care of children of all ages with acute, chronic and life-limiting diseases, as well as of children with psychological, cognitive, physical and social impairments both in inpatient and outpatient care settings and at community level^{8,9}.

Core tasks of pediatric nurses are:

- Protecting children's rights and health,
- Responding to child-specific needs,
- Training (Educating) and supporting families and caregivers in the care for sick and impaired children (Caring).

Knowing that the family is the key focus for the life and well-being of every child, nurses in pediatrics have the explicit task of working in partnership with the child and the family⁶.

¹ Professionelle Pflege Schweiz. Perspektive 2020. Ein Positionspapier des SBK.
https://www.sbk.ch/fileadmin/sbk/shop_downloads/de/Perspektive2020-dt.pdf

² <https://www.icn.ch/nursing-policy/nursing-definitions>

³ Spichiger, E., Kesselring A., Spirig R., De Geest S. Professionelle Pflege - Entwicklung und Inhalte einer Definition. Pflege, die wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift 2006,19, pp. 45-51. <https://doi.org/10.1024/1012-5302.19.1.45>. © 2013 Hogrefe AG.

⁴ Smith F., Paediatric Nursing in Europe: influencing policy and practice. Paediatric Nursing. 2007; 24-25.19 (10):

⁵ Harrison T.M., Family Centred Pediatric Nursing Care: State of the Science. Journal of Pediatric Nursing. 2010; 25(5): 335-343.

⁶ Wright, L.M., & Leahey M. 2013. Nurses and Families: A Guide to Family Assessment and Intervention. Philadelphia, F.A. Davis Company.

⁷ EACH-Charta Schweiz <http://www.kindundspital.ch/downloads/each-charta>

⁸ Allen D., Scarinci N., Hickson L., The Nature of Patient- and Family-Centred Care for Young Adults Living with Chronic Disease and their Family Members: A Systematic Review. International Journal of Integrated Care. 2018(2). doi:10.5334/ijic.3110

⁹ Ding X., Zhu, L., Zhang R., Wang L., Wang T-T., Latour M. 2018. Effects of family-centred care interventions on preterm infants and parents in neonatal intensive care units: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aucc.2018.10.007>