Answers to Study Questions

1. A 30-year-old mother was physically punished with a paddle as a child by her father. What statement conveys the most likely type of discipline she will use with her two daughters aged 2 and aged 5?

   a. The mother may continue the cycle of family violence and use a similar pattern of discipline.
   b. The mother would never use a similar pattern of discipline that she experienced as a child by her father.
   c. The mother's psychological problems may interfere with her capacity to discipline her children.
   d. If the mother marries a man who has not had the same kinds of discipline experiences she may change how she disciplines.

**Answer:** a. Family violence is a pattern of behavior that is passed from one generation to the next without full consideration of the implications of the behavior on the child by the parent.

2. A parent who believes a "child should be seen and not heard" and does not understand the child's need to ask questions and challenge a parent's thinking about his or her environment may be at risk for which type of abuse?

   a. physical abuse
b. sexual abuse

c. emotional abuse

d. physical neglect

**Answer:** c. The disregard for and inattention to a child's emotional needs for attention and nurturance is indicative of emotional abuse.

3. Munchausen syndrome by proxy is known by the following warning signs:

   a. Caretaker(s) reports an extensive history of the child’s illness but with inappropriate signs and symptoms of the illness.

   b. Caretaker(s) reports appropriate signs and symptoms and is very knowledgeable about the illness.

   c. Caretaker(s) reports that symptoms have not subsided but the symptoms do fit the diagnosis.

   d. Caretaker(s) reports appropriate signs and symptoms but is not very knowledgeable about the illness.

**Answer:** a. The parent who experiences Munchausen syndrome by proxy brings the child to the hospital with a variety of suspected problems including infections, poisonings, apnea, etc. and no signs or symptoms are found that correlate with that diagnosis.

4. Children who have experienced sexual abuse can manifest the following cognitive problems:

   a. learning problems
b. self-mutilation

c. depression and anxiety

d. confused identity

**Answer:** a. The answer is a, because learning problems refers to cognitive areas and the other choices are behavioral and mood regulation problems.

5. An infant is brought to the emergency room with bradycardia, vomiting, and retinal hemorrhage. The parents' report that the baby fell off the changing table yesterday but seemed to have no further problems. This morning the child started vomiting. As a nurse who works in the Pediatric Emergency Department, you suspect which of the following problems?

   a. Shaken Baby Syndrome

   b. pyloric stenosis

   c. cardiac insufficiency

   d. seasonal flu

**Answer:** a.

6. Common injuries seen in children as a result of shaken baby syndrome include:

   a. lacerations

   b. burns

   c. retinal bleeding

   d. welt marks
Answer: c. Children who are victims of shaken baby syndrome will often experience damage to their internal organs. Skin damage such as burns, lacerations, and welt marks, are not associated with shaken baby syndrome.

7. A 4-year-old female child is being admitted by a nurse to the pediatric unit for gastrointestinal disorder of unknown origin. The child is crying for no apparent reason while being held by the mother. The nurse notices that when the child is placed in the crib, the crying stops. In completing the assessment the nurse found several large bruises on the child’s upper chest, and cigarette burns on her buttock. As a professional registered nurse, the nurse’s first action should be to:

a. ask the mother about how the child acquired the bruises.
b. call Child Protective Services immediately.
c. consult the nurse manager immediately.
d. review policy on suspected child abuse.

Answer: c. The other choices are not most important and further clarification with a manager is critical to assessment and documentation.

8. There are a number of strategies that professional nurses can utilize to improve the quality of parenting in young families. The type of interventional plan that would have the greatest impact would be to:

a. develop a parent competency program as part of the obstetric programs.
b. distribute materials to parents of children who are coming for immunizations at 1 year of age.
c. provide handouts to kindergarten children at the local schools.

d. offer sibling training programs.

**Answer:** a. Competency programs can be provided as anticipatory guidance to address growth and development before problems develop.

9. You are a new elementary school nurse in an urban community. One of the most effective methods to teach children to prevent sexual abuse in this community would be to:

   a. teach children to say "no" and remove themselves from the situation.

   b. teach children never to talk to strangers.

   c. teach children it is all right if someone touches them only once in their "private parts".

   d. teach children to call police if threatened.

**Answer:** a. The best answer is a, which is focused on action oriented areas that children can undertake on their own behalf.

10. Children who have been sexually assaulted often engage in behavioral patterns that affect their growth and development. Which behavior would the nurse not expect to see in a child who has been sexually abused? The child:

   a. believes love is equated with sex and may be precocious or engage in prostitution.

   b. feels stigmatized.
c. feels betrayed by a family member.

d. feels powerful because she cannot trust anyone and has to rely on herself.

**Answer:** d. Sexually abused children often feel powerless because of the violation of their body.