Summary

1. The toddler continues to develop parental attachment while developing the ability to relate to other adults and peers.
2. Parents may need help in meeting developmental tasks and avoiding maltreatment of the child.
3. The toddler grows at a slower pace physically than the infant, but physical growth is steady and there is considerable gain in neuromuscular skills.
4. Emotionally, socially, and behaviorally, the toddler makes great strides in development during these 2 years.
5. The child gains control over basic physiologic processes, for example, toileting, and a competency in physical behavior patterns.
6. Developmental or autonomy tasks are achieved in the child’s unique way as parents and family members, and other significant people, provide consistent love, guidance, and adequate resources to foster physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and moral development.
7. The unique toddler characteristics of curiosity, impulsivity, advancement of motor skills beyond verbal and cognitive development, and assertion of will must be considered by parents and health care providers in relation to safety and health promotion measures.
8. Injury control or prevention can be achieved if appropriate social and environmental controls are in place.
9. Box 10-8, Considerations for the Toddler and Family in Health Promotion, presents some guidelines to consider in assessment and health promotion with the toddler. The family is included in considerations.
10. Holistic care includes your assessment, intervention, evaluation of parental nurturing as well as care of the toddler, and evaluation of your effectiveness with the toddler and family.

Review Questions

1. The nurse is working with the mother of a 2-year-old child who has started to have tantrums when being left at day care. The mother is concerned that she will lose her job as a result of tardiness associated with her child care situation. How should the nurse advise the mother?
   1. “Ask your boss if you can come in a little later.”
   2. “The child may need to have a stay-at-home parent.”
   3. “This is normal behavior for a child in this age group. It will likely pass with firm, consistent parenting.”
   4. “Leave the child with a relative or neighbor until the behavior is outgrown.”
2. The nurse is examining the ears of a 2-year-old child. How should the external ear best be positioned to insert the otoscope?
   1. Pull the earlobe up and back.
   2. Pull the earlobe down and back.
   3. Pull the earlobe straight down.
   4. Do not manipulate the earlobe.
3. Which toy should the nurse suggest that grandparents purchase as a gift for an 18-month-old grandchild?
   1. Tricycle
   2. Play kitchen
   3. Garden tools
   4. Tambourine
4. The nurse recommends to parents the use of bedtime rituals for their toddler because these activities:
   1. Promote a sense of security.
   2. Promote creativity.
   3. Encourage dependence.
   4. Offer options and choices.