Simulating Ethical Issues in Pediatric Nursing

Laura Nold MSN, RN  
Instructor  
Missouri Western State University  
St. Joseph, MO

One critical issue confronting nurse educators is preparing students to face and appropriately handle ethical issues in their future careers. Pediatric nursing is a particular area that presents opportunity for many ethical issues to arise. Simulation is one area in which we can incorporate these ethical dilemmas and issues to provide a safe space in which students can work through these situations. In this pediatric nursing course, the instructor has sought to utilize creative strategies in simulation to provide hands-on education regarding ethical issues in healthcare. One particular simulation developed and implemented focuses on child abuse and neglect, with emphasis on the nurse’s ethical responsibility in that difficult situation. Attention is placed on caring for the child and family including appropriate referrals and interventions. Debriefing involves conversation around the ANA Code of Ethics and ethical issues specific to the pediatric setting.