
UNIT: Growth and Development

LESSON: Neonate--Overview

TIME: 2-3 days

COMPETENCIES:

1. Define the term neonatal and describe the physical characteristics of a neonate. (Options 2, 3, 4, and 5)
 - a. Describe medical procedures commonly employed during the neonatal period (APGAR test, silver nitrate, PKU, etc.).
 - b. Identify the physical needs of the neonate and explain how to provide for those needs.
2. Identify the emotional needs of the neonate and explain how to provide for those needs. (Options 6 and 7)

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:

At birth, the newborn baby leaves an environment that is safe, warm, and weightless. Now, the baby is called a neonate, and its entire world has changed. The most critical time for the neonate, physically, is the first minutes following birth. This is the time when all of the neonate's systems must begin to function on their own. The first month of life brings many adjustments for the neonate and his/her parents.

INTRODUCTION:

Hold up several pictures from magazines of infants, such as the ones found on diaper advertisements, baby food advertisements, etc. Have the students respond to the pictures. After showing several pictures, ask the students if newborn infants really look like the pictures you showed them. Show them a picture of a newborn and ask them to respond. You may also want to use part of the segment in the "Bill Cosby Himself" tape or video concerning childbirth. Towards the end of the childbirth segment, he talks about how the newborn looks. Explain that the newborn looks the way it does due to the experience of birth that it has just been through.

LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:

OPTION 1

BOOK: The New Baby, or Happy Birthday to You! by Dr. Seuss, ISBN #0-394-80076-1

OPTION 2--Competency 1--CDA I, 2-Healthy

DISCUSSION: Use the "Neonate Study Guide," and "Neonate Lecture" or a text to study the neonate.

OPTION 3--Competency 1

APPEARANCE--Explain common newborn appearances and medical procedures by using the HEALTHY NEWBORNS slides available through Childbirth Graphics, \$79.95.

OPTION 4--Competency 1

GUEST SPEAKER: Invite a pediatrician or a pediatric nurse to talk to the class about the medical procedures and the assessments performed following birth.

OPTION 5--Competency 1

BABY TALK: View the video "Baby Talk," \$24.95, available through Childbirth Graphics or from Cambridge.

OPTION 6--Competency 2--CDA III, 8-Self

THRIVING: A baby cannot grow and develop properly without love. When a baby is born healthy and strong and into a loving family, it grows and develops, or in other words, it thrives. "Failure to thrive" is a term used for infants who are born healthy and strong but who have no medical reason for not developing and growing. It is believed that failure to thrive is caused from a lack of love, caring, and bonding. Discuss with the students how vital it is to begin this nurturing and bonding with the baby or neonate as soon after birth as possible. List on the board, using students' input, some of the ways that parents can encourage bonding with a neonate:

1. Holding and cuddling the baby just after the birth.
2. Holding and cuddling the baby often.
3. Rocking the baby.
4. Answering the baby's cries as soon as possible.
5. Having skin-to-skin contact.
6. Having eye-to-eye contact during feeding times.
7. Talking softly and lovingly to the baby.
8. Keeping the baby warm and safe.

OPTION 7--Competency 2--CDA III, 8-Self

CRYING: Play a tape recording of a baby's different cries: hungry cry, hurt cry, bored cry, tired cry, etc. See if the students can identify which cry they are hearing. Discuss crying and the different cries that a baby has. Have the students view the segment on "Crying, Wailing, and Sobbing" from the PARENTS VIDEO MAGAZINE--"BABY COMES HOME." This video can be purchased through Cambridge Home Economics, P.O. Box 2153, Dept. HE12, Charleston, WV 25328-2153, 1-800-468-4227, Fax 1-304-744-9351. Use the teacher information and the "CRYING INFANTS GUIDE" and "20 WAYS TO COPE WITH A CRYING BABY" transparencies. Learning to differentiate cries and how to respond to them appropriately is vital to emotional nurturing.

RESOURCES:

On the Day You Were Born, Debra Frasier, ISBN: 0-15-257995-8

Baby Your Baby
Dr. Mom
Brazelton books

Childbirth Graphics, A Division of WRS Group, Inc., PO Box 21207
WACO, TX 76702-9964, Phone #1-800-299-3366, ext. 287, FAX 817-751-0221

"Childbirth Magazine," p. 92-93, "Baby's First Hours"

"Bill Cosby Himself," copyright 1982, Motown Record Company, available at any store that sales cassette tapes.