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## Knowledge, opinions and applications of pediatric nurses about therapeutic games

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**Objective:** This study was aimed to determine the knowledge, opinions and applications of pediatric nurses about therapeutic games.

**Method:** This descriptive study was conducted with 126 nurses working in pediatric clinics of four hospitals located in eastern of Turkey between February and May 2017. Data were collected via "Nurse's Introductory Information Form" and "Therapeutic Game Information, Views and Practices of The Nurses of Questionnaire Form". Percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation was used in the evaluation of the data.

**Results:** The average age of the nurses was 31.1%, 71.4% of them were working in pediatric clinics for 6 years or more. 84% of nurses has stated that therapeutic game is the best way to learn the child's feelings and thoughts about the procedures performed at the hospital, 66.6% of nurses reported that therapeutic game improves communication between the child and the nurse, 77.7% of them expressed that the child should play therapeutic game in the pediatric clinics. However, it determined that 48.5% of nurses have not played therapeutic games with children in pediatric clinics. 59.5% of the nurses stated that they have not practiced therapeutic games because they were too many patients in the clinic. 61.9% of nurses who performed therapeutic games stated that they play therapeutic games with children before drawing blood. Therapeutic games that nurses play most often with children were drawing pictures and playing with intravenous set, injector, nasogastric tubes.

**Conclusion:** It was determined that pediatric nurses have sufficient knowledge about therapeutic games methods but they do not use them adequately in practice.

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