

Section 1

Interprofessional Approaches to Pediatric Practice

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OVERVIEW

This first section sets the tone for the entire book by describing and delineating *interprofessional competencies* for pediatric therapists and those unique to each profession, referred to as *complementary competencies*. Given the importance of understanding other professionals' roles and responsibilities, this section further provides an outline of the various professionals typically encountered in pediatric care. It then describes the importance of role clarification, collaborative leadership, and team functioning as key interprofessional competencies needed for effective teamwork, emphasizing the importance of appreciating the complementary competencies that define the roles and responsibilities of other team members. Finally, it describes the various team approaches used in pediatric care, including intradisciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and collaborative team approaches.

INTERPROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

Interprofessional skills go beyond those practiced exclusively by those providing individualized care for children. This skill set recognizes key competencies for collaboration

with other professionals when making decisions that impact all those providing care and those receiving care. These skills are referred to as *interprofessional competencies*.

What are these interprofessional competencies and how were they determined? Recognizing that effective teamwork is essential to family-centered care, experts in public health and health care began determining interprofessional competencies by exploring competencies expected of all health professionals, or *common competencies*.¹ These interprofessional competencies were compared with those that were deemed unique or defining of each profession, or *complementary competencies*. Finally, the common competencies that were considered essential for effective collaboration were identified as interprofessional competencies, as illustrated in Figure 1-1. Interprofessional competencies are those common competencies that should be developed to ensure effective teamwork when providing care.

In *Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice*, an expert panel from the Interprofessional Education Collaborative representing public health and health care fields distinguished the following 4 domains for what they determined to be core interprofessional competencies.¹ Each of these 4 domains is based upon a guiding principle that describes the domain and provides the basis of the competencies within that domain. The 4 domains are as follows: