Developmental Assessment 2

School-Age

Patient Medical History

Patient is a 7 year old male seen in the orthopedic unit where he is waiting two weeks for a spinal operation to place him in a halo. Patient has previous anesthisia exeperience, and demonstrates understanding of the type of operation he will be getting when asked. He does not like needles and when asked if he wanted to see what his IV would look like he said no, displaying some anxiety about receiving one. Mom is bedside, but does not know who will stay with him post-surgery. He will stay in the hospital for two months post-op.

Developmental Assessment

Social-Emotional:

At 7 years old, the patient is in Erikson's industry vs. inferiority stage. As well as Parten's cooperative play stage. He demonstrated this by engaging in imaginative play with me where he divided the dinosaurs from the animals in his block structure, and he also asked me to help him build the structure with him. He also enjoyed playing with the different super heroes, and split them up between the "bad guys" and "good guys." The patient was able to see another patient in a halo so he could have an example of what to expect, and after the interaction he seemed less anxious. At this age, since children are beginning to think logically, fear of loss of control over one's body, bodily mutilation, injury, and pain are significant hospital stressors. The patient was able to get procedural prep from a CCLS where he was shown pictures of the OR and and the mask that would go on his face during it. He also engaged in some medical play to help familarize him with medical equipment.

Cognitive:

The patient is at the beginning of Piaget's concrete operational stage, where children begin to think logically, and can classify objects based on shared characteristics. When playing with cars, he divided the fast cars from the slow cars, demonstrating his ability to classify objects. Additionally, he also was able to classify which animals lived in the water, and which ones lived on land when playing with them. He demonstrated his ability to think logically when his operation was being explained to him, and he understood what would be happening to him while he was in surgery.

Motor:

Although the patient's movement is somewhat limited due to the backbrace he wears, he still demonstrated motor skills that are developmentally appropriate for a school-aged child. Patient was able to run around, climb on things, and displayed great hand-eye coordination when playing with the toy cars. He also enjoyed balancing cars on his head demonstrating good balance and control over body movements.

Language:
Patient used expressive faces and voices when switching between superhero figures, and can speak two languages. He spoke to his mother in his first language, and spoke to me in English. He was able to switch back and forth without any trouble. Per Bronfebrenner, this most likely means he engages with people in his micro and mesosystem regularly who speak both languages. The patient also used advanced vocabulary such as the word, “illegal” properly when parking his toy cars.

Coping Assessment
The patient appears to be coping well, and did not show any signs of significant fear or anxiety during his procedural prep. However, he does appear to have anxiety about receving an IV, and when asked by the CCLS if he wanted to see how it works, he shook his head and said no, because he thought she was going to stick him. Patient demonstrated a Bowlby and Ainsworth’s secure attatchment style, by not showing any signs of distress when his mom would leave the room, and would continue to play with his toys until she came back.

Considerations for Healthcare Experience
The patient is familar with the hospital environment because of the previous issues and surgeries he has had for his back. However, due to his anxiety about receiving an IV, and the fact that he will be getting a halo and having to stay for two months after, his hospitalization is at high risk for negatively impacting him.

Interventions
1. Consider asking again if he would like to see how an IV is placed, and engage him in medical play with different IV parts with a stuffed animal or doll, to familarize himself with the process. Doing so also gives the patient the ability to ask any questions he might have about the process.
2. Initiating a play session between this patient and another one who has a halo would be a great opportunity for the patient to see that he will not be in any physical pain and will still be mobile even with the halo. This also would help him become more familiarized with the physical changes he will see after his surgery, so he is not scared of the halo post-op.