



## The Need for Qualitative Research in Pediatric Nursing

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### Abstract

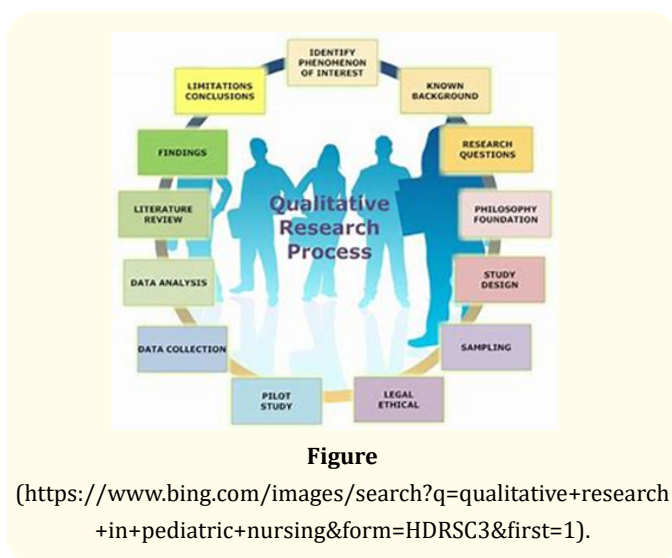
Qualitative research is a methodological approach used in various fields, including social sciences, psychology, anthropology, and education, among others. Unlike quantitative research, which focuses on numerical data and statistical analysis, qualitative research aims to understand phenomena through detailed exploration, interpretation, and description of people's experiences, behaviors, and beliefs. Pediatric nurses need to perform qualitative researches which will provide rich data about the children and their parental experiences in the pediatric units, their satisfaction, quality of life of children with various chronic disorders etc. The evidences will ensure patients safety as well quality nursing care during the hospitalization of children, it will also enhance patient's compliance and parents compliance as well.

**Keywords:** Compliance; Patient Safety; Quality Care; Qualitative Research

### Introduction

Qualitative nursing care has the potential to significantly enhance pediatric nursing practice in several ways: Personalized Care: Qualitative nursing care emphasizes understanding the unique needs, preferences, and experiences of each pediatric patient. By taking a patient-centered approach, nurses can tailor care plans to meet individual needs, promoting better outcomes and patient satisfaction. Qualitative nursing care involves effective communication and active listening. By engaging with pediatric patients and their families in meaningful conversations, nurses can build trust, foster rapport, and address concerns more effectively, leading to improved patient-provider communication and collaboration in care. Qualitative nursing care recognizes the importance of family involvement in pediatric healthcare. By involving families in care decisions, providing emotional support, and addressing their informational needs, nurses can empower families to participate more actively in their child's care, leading to better adherence to treatment plans and improved outcomes. Qualitative nursing care emphasizes a holistic approach to patient assessment, considering not only physical health but also psychosocial, developmental, and cultural factors. By conducting comprehensive assessments, nurses can identify underlying issues, anticipate potential

challenges, and implement holistic interventions that promote the overall well-being of pediatric patients. Qualitative nursing care acknowledges the cultural diversity of pediatric patients and their families. By being culturally sensitive and respectful, nurses can provide care that is culturally appropriate, addressing cultural beliefs, values, and practices that may influence health behaviors and treatment decisions. Pediatric patients often experience fear, anxiety, and distress related to illness, hospitalization, and medical procedures. Qualitative nursing care involves providing emotional support, reassurance, and comfort to pediatric patients and their families, helping them cope with the challenges they face during healthcare encounters. Qualitative nursing care promotes continuity of care by fostering therapeutic relationships between nurses, pediatric patients, and their families. By maintaining ongoing communication, coordinating care across settings, and advocating for the needs of patients and families, nurses can ensure seamless transitions and consistent support throughout the healthcare journey [1]. Overall, qualitative nursing care offers a humanistic and patient-centered approach to pediatric nursing practice, focusing on understanding the unique needs and experiences of pediatric patients and their families to provide compassionate, holistic, and effective care.



Figure

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**Steps in qualitative research:**

- **Data Collection:** Qualitative researchers collect data through methods such as interviews, focus groups, observations, and document analysis. These methods allow researchers to gather rich, detailed information about participants’ thoughts, feelings, and experiences.
- **Flexibility:** Qualitative research is often flexible and adaptive, allowing researchers to explore unexpected themes or follow up on interesting findings as they emerge during the research process [2].
- **Subjectivity:** Qualitative research acknowledges the subjectivity of both researchers and participants. Researchers recognize their own biases and perspectives and strive to understand how these may influence the research process and findings.
- **Inductive Analysis:** Unlike quantitative research, which typically starts with a hypothesis and tests it using deductive reasoning, qualitative research often uses inductive reasoning. Researchers analyze the data to identify patterns, themes, and relationships, which can then be used to generate theories or hypotheses [3].
- **Contextual Understanding:** Qualitative research emphasizes the importance of understanding the context in which phenomena occur. Researchers consider factors such as culture, history, and social dynamics to interpret their findings accurately.

- **Rich Descriptions:** Qualitative research aims to provide rich, detailed descriptions of participants’ experiences and perspectives. Researchers often use quotations and anecdotes to illustrate key themes and findings [4].
- **Validity and Reliability:** While qualitative research does not prioritize statistical generalizability in the same way as quantitative research, researchers still strive for validity and reliability. Techniques such as member checking (where participants review and confirm the accuracy of findings) and inter-rater reliability (where multiple researchers analyze data independently) can enhance the rigor of qualitative studies [5].

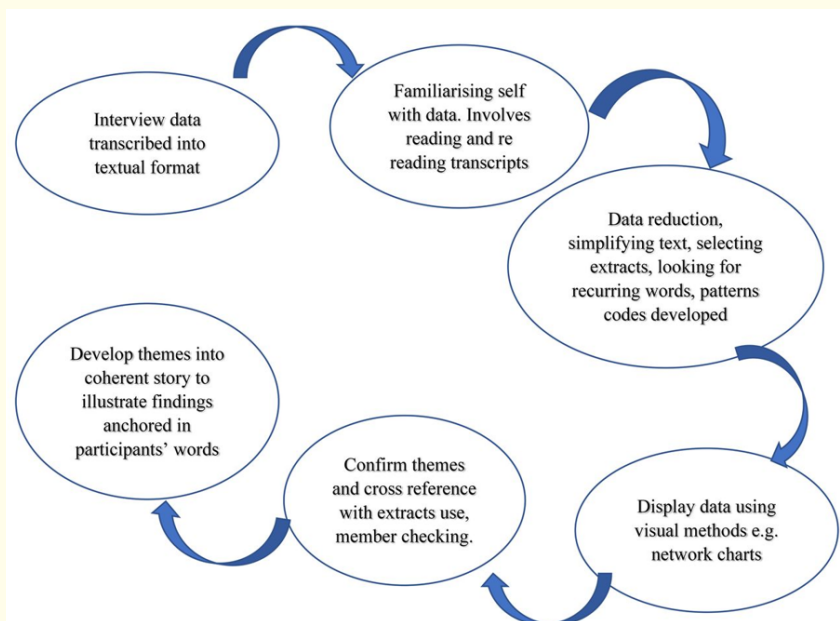
**The need for qualitative research in pediatric nursing**

Qualitative research plays a crucial role in pediatric nursing for several reasons:

- **Understanding the Child’s Perspective:** Qualitative research allows nurses to delve into the subjective experiences, perceptions, and emotions of pediatric patients. By understanding how children perceive their healthcare experiences, nurses can provide more patient-centered care that addresses the unique needs and concerns of each child.
- **Exploring Family Dynamics:** Pediatric nursing often involves caring for not just the child but also their family members. Qualitative research can help nurses explore family dynamics, communication patterns, and coping strategies in the context of pediatric healthcare. This understanding enables nurses to support families more effectively and promote positive outcomes for both children and their caregivers [6,7].
- **Exploring Developmental Differences:** Children undergo rapid physical, cognitive, and emotional development, which can influence their healthcare needs and experiences. Qualitative research allows nurses to explore how developmental factors impact children’s responses to illness, pain, and medical procedures. This insight helps nurses tailor their care approaches to meet the unique developmental needs of pediatric patients.
- **Identifying Barriers to Care:** Qualitative research can uncover barriers that prevent children from accessing healthcare services or adhering to treatment regimens. These barriers

may include financial constraints, transportation issues, cultural beliefs, or communication difficulties. By identifying and understanding these barriers, nurses can implement strategies to overcome them and ensure that all pediatric patients receive the care they need.

- Improving Communication:** Effective communication is essential in pediatric nursing, especially when interacting with young children who may have limited verbal skills. Qualitative research can explore communication strategies that facilitate meaningful interactions between nurses, children, and their families. This may include using age-appropriate language, visual aids, play therapy techniques, or involving children in decision-making processes about their care [8,9].



Figure

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### Conclusion

Overall, qualitative research offers valuable insights into complex social phenomena, human experiences, and cultural practices, providing depth and understanding that quantitative methods alone may not capture. Overall, qualitative research in pediatric nursing provides valuable insights into the unique needs, experiences, and challenges faced by children and their families in healthcare settings. By understanding these factors, nurses can deliver more holistic, patient-centered care that promotes the health and well-being of pediatric patients.

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