The Sun Shines on... Our “S.W.A.T.” Team

This month we shine a light on Sunshine’s Skin and Wound Assessment Team: Jisue Choi, PNP; YoungMi Park, RN; Kathy Anduze, Clinical Nutritionist; and Myra Baltazar, PT & WCC. The Skin and Wound Assessment Team, also known as “SWAT,” was formed to provide high quality skin care for our children. SWAT’s primary goal and interventions are focused on preventing skin problems from developing, monitoring patterns of skin irritations, and developing skin care protocols for the nurses. Some of the skin-related issues they address are ‘moisture-related’ skin damage, g-tube irritation and contact rashes and ulcers. With excellent prevention strategies in place, the latter issues rarely occur. When describing the work that the team does, Myra shares, “We are very proactive in identifying the cause of the skin-related issue and taking preventable measures so it doesn’t become problematic.” As part of SWAT, Jisue conducts routine skin assessments for the children. She then updates the team with any changes that may have emerged. Jisue explains, “Our goal is to have a plan in place and treat any skin issues that may arise. Prevention of any problems regarding the skin is crucial. If possible, we want to stop or minimize any potential skin issue.” The team members consult with one another to determine what the best treatment plan is for each child, as well as to develop protocols for the nurses so that there is a plan to refer to when they are treating the children. With a selected plan in place, YoungMi provides nurses with the training to implement the plan successfully. YoungMi says that the team’s focus on skin care is essential. She explains, “Skin irritation may seem like a minor issue at first, but it isn’t minor at all. We want to maintain healthy skin so that the children can feel comfortable. If your skin is irritated, it can affect how you feel and your quality of life.” Through their work, the Skin and Wound Assessment Team shows their dedication to keeping our children comfortable and happy. Thank you, Kathy, Myra, Jisue and YoungMi for your focused compassion and hard work!
Toys at Sunshine
A few reminders about toys:

- Smooth surfaced
- Wood
- Plastic
- Durable
- Washable cloth
dolls/animals

Toys should be:

1. For infection control, only two stuffed dolls can be on the bed at one time.
2. For safety, children that move but have trouble repositioning themselves should not have a pillow or soft toy that can cover their face in their crib/bed.
3. Inflated Balloons in bedrooms are choking hazards. Deflated, non-latex, balloons can be hung on the walls without strings.

Sunshine Updates
Family CPR Training will be January 22nd at 11AM and will last approximately one hour. Attendance can occur more than once. Sign-up will be required at the front desk or with your Social Worker.

Risk for the Flu
It’s Flu and Virus Season!

REMEMBER:
Hand Hygiene is the most effective method to prevent the spread of ANY virus- including the flu and stomach. Practice this method at work AND at home- teach your family members! Purell and other alcohol hand sanitizers are not as effective with stomach viruses- SOAP AND WATER MUST BE USED after caring for residents OR going into the room of a resident on contact precautions!

Winter Safety

When walking, look where you are going and have your hands ready to steady yourself should you slip.

1. Avoid carrying heavy loads that may compromise your balance.
2. Outside, wear footwear with heavy treads for increased traction. Your shoes need traction like your car!
3. Walk along grassy areas if a walkway is covered in ice.
4. Be aware of where you are parking- avoid hills that may become slippery.
5. If your car has difficulty going up the driveway, park at the bottom of the hill and call the front desk. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR BLOCKING THE DRIVEWAY and DO NOT WALK UP THE HILL.
6. Plan ahead and give yourself time. Rushing, whether when walking or driving, can cause accidents!

HOLIDAY
Generosity

All of our children were the fortunate recipients of the generous outpouring of gifts during this holiday season. It seems as if Sunshine spent the entire month of December celebrating all of the holidays. There was candle lighting, dreidel play, donut baking, caroling and several visits from Santa, Mrs. Claus and snowmen! Some of the new items that families will see in their child’s rooms are new toys that are geared to each child’s ability and needs. Please ask to see some of the photos we took during the festivities. Sunshine is now busy writing thank you notes to all of our donor groups on behalf of the children, families, and organizations.

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