**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 44, Caring for Birthing Parents and Newborns**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objectives |
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| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * They may have mixed feelings about this pregnancy. * They might be worried about how their two children are doing staying with their father. * They might be worried about finances. * They might be worried about losing their job. * They might be afraid for their own health and for the health of their unborn child. * They might be bored. * They might be lonely. * They might be missing their children. * They might be suffering from depression.   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Avoid taking their scolding personally. * Use good listening skills. * Report any concerns they express to the nurse. * Empathize with their situation. * Respect their feelings. * Make yourself available to them and provide companionship as often as possible to help ease feelings of loneliness and boredom. * Observe for and report any signs or symptoms of depression to the nurse. | 3, , 4 |
| 2a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Use an axillary or temporal thermometer. * Do not obtain a rectal temperature unless the nurse requests that you do so. * An apical pulse should be obtained using a stethoscope. * Apical pulse is taken for a full minute. * Respirations are counted for a full minute. * Watch the abdomen rise and fall to count respirations. * Do not take vital signs on a crying baby. They will be inaccurate. * Use the proper size cuff according to weight or an electronic device to obtain the blood pressure.   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Report to the nurse a temperature that is above or below the normal range of 97.6° to 98.6°F. * Report a baby’s heart rate above or below the normal newborn rate of 110 to 160 beats/min. * Report respiratory rate above or below the normal newborn rate of 30 to 60 breaths/min. * Report a blood pressure below or higher than the normal newborn range of 50 to 80 mm Hg systolic, 30 to 50 mm Hg diastolic. * Report any difficulties you had obtaining accurate vital signs.   2c. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Hold the baby upright during bottle feeding. * Never prop the bottle up during feeding, or lay the baby down to take the bottle. * After every few ounces of formula, stop feeding the baby so that they can burp. * Burping gets rid of the excess air that is swallowed during feeding.   2d. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Require visitors to sign in if that is a unit policy. * The baby is brought from, and returned to, the nursery by a member of the health care team. * The identification bands on the baby’s wrist and ankle are always checked against the parent’s identification band before the baby is handed to the parent. * The identification bands cannot be removed until after the baby goes home with their parents. | 8, 11 |