Critical thinking and nursing process

Chapter 15

Critical thinking:
“is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing and/or evaluation information gathering from or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning or communication as guide to belief and action”.

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Creativity is a major component in critical thinking.

Creativity is the thinking that results in the development of new ideas and products. And it is the ability to develop and implement new and better solutions.

Applying critical thinking to nursing practice

- problem solving
- Decision making
Approaches to problem solving

• Trial and error.
• Intuition: is the understanding or learning of things without the conscious uses of reasoning (sixth sense).
• Research process and scientific /modified scientific method.

Decision making

• **Decision making**: is the critical thinking process for choosing the best action to meet the desired goal
• - done in each step in nursing process
• - used in situation that don't involve problem solving
Steps to the decisions making process

- identify the priorities.
- set the criteria:
  - what need to be achieved.
  - what need to be preserved.
  - what need to be avoided.
- weight the criteria (set priority).
- seek alternative.
- examine alternative.
- Project.
- implement (placed into action).
- evaluate the outcome.

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