Ch 14 notes: MFR Infants and Children

Anatomical/Physiological differences:

1. Variation in the sizes of infants and children can make assessment difficult
2. Children are soft and easily damaged
3. A child’s body surface area is greater per unit of weight than that of an adult
4. Children are typically born strong and healthy and can compensate for many of the negative effects of illness and injury

Head: Child’s brain is developing for first year

 Head is proportionally larger and heavier

 Soft spots

 Chin to chest position

Airway: tongue is large in comparison to the mouth

 Smaller passages, positioning airway

 Infants and children have more secretions—blocks smaller airways

Neck: Neck muscles are weaker

 Difficult to fit in c-collar

Chest: Higher metabolic rate-requires more nutrients and oxygen

 Infants breathe through nose

 Use abdominal muscles to breathe-chest muscles not developed yet

 More susceptible to chest injuries-smaller cavity

 Bones of chest mainly cartilage

Abdomen: belly breathers

Extremities: bones are flexible and more susceptible to fractures than chest bones

Primary Assessment: Initial

 20 foot rule: scared of adults, crying, failure to cooperate, toe to head assessment

 Signs of respiratory distress: increased respiratory rate

 Shallow breathing

 Gasping, grunting

 Stridor or snoring

 Brachial pulse

 Use blow by oxygen

Shaken baby syndrome :Abuse: altered mental status

Croup: viral infection age 3 mo to 3 yrs: seal bark

Epiglottitis: bacterial infection: rare but serious: sudden on set

Shock: loss of blood or fluids: increased respiratory rate

Seizures: fever can bring on seizures

SIDS: prone to if tummy sleep, soft surfaces to sleep, loose bedding, smoking, bed sharing,

pre term or low birth weight

Trauma: leading cause of death in peds

Child Abuse: Unsanitary conditions, Unsafe conditions, very thin-starvation, stares blankly, fearful of

 parents or adults, cant explain injuries, bruises, scars, broken teeth, rope burns, whip marks,

pinch marks, raccoon eyes, burn marks, swollen ears, unexplained delay in treatment…..