

that facilitate successful collaboration.

Presence is an important part of several nursing conceptual models, including those of Parse (1996), Paterson and Zderad (1988), and Watson (1996, 2012). “The core element in is ‘being there....’ It is described as a gift of self and is equated with a use of self that is conveyed through open and giving behaviors of the nurse” (Osterman & Schwartz-Barcott, 1996, p. 24). describes the characteristics of four ways of “being there.” These “reflect degrees of intensity in the context of another” (Osterman & Schwartz-Barcott, 1996, p. 29).

By synthesizing these theoretical conceptions of presence, the nurse focuses all of his or her energy on the client during interactions. The nurse can be present without speaking. Clients and nurses engaged in true presence during an encounter describe an experience that cannot be captured with words and results in a deep, personal connection for both participants with possible resultant personal transformations.

Presence is integrally related to genuineness and a necessary antecedent to empathy.

Why is it important to be truly present with clients?