1. Infants up to six weeks are obligatory nose breathers. Therefore, any obstruction of the nasal passages can pose a threat.

2. The tongue is larger in proportion to the mouth, making it more likely to become an airway obstruction if the child is unconscious.

3. A smaller, narrower airway makes children more susceptible to airway obstruction and respiratory distress.

4. A greater metabolic rate and larger trunk relative to the rest of the body make infants and young children more prone to dehydration and hypothermia.

5. Infants have an unstable temperature control mechanism, so mottling of the extremities is common.

6. A smaller lung capacity and underdeveloped intercostal muscles give children less pulmonary reserve.

7. Most of an infant’s body weight is water, so vomiting and diarrhea can quickly lead to dehydration.

8. Circulating blood volume is lower in children, so even a small amount of blood loss can be dangerous.

9. All pediatric medications are calculated according to kilograms of body weight. Medication-wise, the child is from age birth through 12 years. Thereafter, for medication purposes, he is considered an adult.

10. Immature kidneys are unable to concentrate or dilute urine as effectively as adults. Complete organ maturing occurs in the latter half of the second year.