

Partnering with Families: Building Positive Goal-Oriented Relationships

Module 2 Learning Activity: Reflections on Cultural Perspectives

We recognize the importance of culture in our relationships.

Culture is complex, and different cultural beliefs lead to different caregiving practices.

Culture is influenced by a variety of factors including unique individual perspectives, family traditions, country of origin, ethnic identity, cultural group, community norms, experiences, and home language. It impacts caregiving behaviors and views on key issues such as education and family roles, childrearing practices, beliefs about what school readiness means, and expectations for child behavior.

Reflecting on cultural perspectives, behaviors, and expectations can help us better understand families' choices and goals. In addition, we need to explore and fully understand how our own values, beliefs, traditions, norms, and experiences impact our cultural perspective, behaviors, and expectations. By reflecting on our own culture, we can build our own self-awareness and support our capacity to have effective partnerships with families.

Consider your own cultural perspective, behaviors and expectations. Read each question below and write your reflections about the question in the first column. In the second column, note how your cultural perspective, behaviors and expectations might influence relationships you have with families. Consider what has influenced your perspective and expectations. After you complete your reflections, share with a partner. Keep these reflections in mind as you learn more about the Strength-based Attitudes and Relationship-based Practices in Module 3.

Question	Your Reflections	How might this influence your interactions from families?
Communication		
How do you feel children should address their program staff? How do you feel parents should be addressed?		
What behaviors convey respect to you when you are talking with others?		

Partnering with Families: Building Positive Goal-Oriented Relationships
Module 2 Learning Activity, cont.

Question	Your Reflections	How might this influence your interactions from families?
Professional Roles		
Do you consider disagreements between staff and parents acceptable? Why or why not?		
What do you feel are the responsibilities of families and of staff for child development? What are your responsibilities in your role for child development?		
Caregiving		
At what age do you feel a child should be toilet trained?		
What are your expectations for children during mealtimes? What behaviors do you expect of children in your program during mealtimes?		
Discipline		
How do you approach child guidance at the program? What behaviors do you want to encourage?		
Language		
What languages do you speak? What do you do when a family speaks a different language that you don't speak?		
Learning		
What do you believe about how young children learn?		