

Tips for Exploring Culture and Beliefs

Talk and listen to families reflections about the following areas. Possible ways to approach each area are provided in parentheses.

- Communication and interaction styles (“How does the family solve problems?”, “How are decisions made?”, etc.)
- Family roles and styles (“Who are the important people in your lives?”, “How do things get done around the house?”, “Who provides nurturing, who sets rules, what are your feelings about discipline?, “How do members of the family view child’s challenges?”.)
- Natural support networks and formal supports such as service agencies (“Who is called when the family needs help or wants to talk”, “Who is supportive?”.)
- Attitudes toward seeking help from education and health care providers and how it may affect their feelings about consultation (“How do you feel about coming for help?”, “What have your family members or friends said about seeking help?”, “Have you sought help before? How did it work out?” “What have you heard about the ways to help young children with these types of challenges?”)
- Expectations for consultation and their role in the process (“What do you want to change after we work together?”, “How do you see yourself working with me and the the teacher?”, “What should we work on first?”, “Do you think that this will make a difference?”)