

Tips on Supporting Culturally Diverse Families

1. Get to know a family's cultural background and beliefs when planning transition goals for their child.
2. Ask for, listen to, and respect parents' perspectives and what they have to say about their child with a disability.
3. Encourage parents to share their hopes and dreams for their child's future. Support their hopes and dreams by using them to help craft transition goals reflective of a positive future.
4. Provide materials and discussions in a form that is easy for families to understand.
5. Be sensitive to the basic survival needs of the family (e.g. employment that cannot be interfered with) by scheduling meetings at a time and place that is convenient for them.
6. Be aware of attitudes about families when interacting with them in meetings. Always act professionally, and be willing to show empathy and sensitivity for their life circumstances.
7. Take the necessary time to build trust, rapport, and credibility with immigrant families of youth with disabilities to help ease potential fears of deportation.
8. Keep an open mind because families may have different conceptions of individualism and independence and the importance of family and home.

Adapted from: Green, G. (2011) . Transition Planning for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Youth. Baltimore, Maryland:Paul H. Brookes.