

# The Importance of Cultural Reciprocity

## What Is Cultural Reciprocity?

"A method of inquiry for professionals to reflect on their practices and question the assumptions of the field"

## Accurate Cultural Reciprocity requires Cultural Awareness

This has 3 levels

### Overt Awareness

Awareness of obvious differences

### Covert Awareness

Awareness of differences not recognized by outward signs

### Subtle Awareness

Involves the recognition of embedded values and beliefs that underline our actions and the realization that these beliefs are not universal

## Posture of Cultural Reciprocity Steps

- 1 Identify cultural values embedded in professional interpretations or recommendation for service
- 2 Identify the values of the family being served with respect to your recommendations
- 3 Acknowledge and give explicit respect to any cultural differences and fully explain the cultural basis for the professional assumptions
- 4 Through discussion and collaboration, determine the most effective way to adapt professional interpretations and recommendations to the values of the family

## Key Features of Cultural Reciprocity

Avoids Stereotyping

Aims for Subtle Levels of Awareness

Goes Beyond Awareness of Differences to Self-Awareness

Ensures that Both Parents and Professionals Are Empowered

Has Universal Applicability