

# CULTURAL RECIPROCIDTY

"Cultural awareness needs to go beyond the mere acknowledgement of... stereotypical characteristics"

Understanding misinterpretations through culture

## POSTURE OF CULTURAL RECIPROCIDTY

### 4 STEPS:



- 1. Identify the cultural values related to your interpretation of a student's difficulties and service recommendations.**
- 2. Determine if the family has these same values and how their views may differ from your assumption**
- 3. Fully ACKNOWLEDGE and RESPECT their cultural differences and EXPLAIN the cultural basis of assumptions**
- 4. COLLABORATE an DISCUSS ways to adapt and add professional interpretations/recommendations to the family's value system**

## KEY FEATURES

- Creates a constant awareness of differences
- Aims for subtle levels of awareness of differences - going beyond just overt differences
- Empowers both parents and professionals
- Avoids stereotyping



## APPLICATION

Annie is a mother of two children and was reported to Child Protective Services for spanking her children. How can we implement CULTURAL RECIPROCIDTY?

Identify the professional interpretation of spanking as a form of punishment and abuse. Identify Annie's views of spanking. She recognizes the difference between spanking and beating and only uses spanking on occasion. Explain to Annie the differing views and how spanking can be misinterpreted. Find a middle ground and way to empower both Annie and yourself.



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Kalyanpur, M. & Harry, B. (1999). The posture of culture reciprocity. In Culture in Special Education: Building Reciprocal Family-Professional Relationships (pp. 113-130). Paul H. Brookes Publishing.