

Suggested Interview Items/Questions: For Consideration When Caring for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Children

Family Structure & Child Rearing Practices

Theresa M. Armentrout,
English Language Learning
Instructional Specialist
Email: tmarie@truman.edu

Information adapted from: Developing Cross-Cultural Competence: A Guide for Working with Children and Their Families; Third Edition by E.W. Lynch & M.J. Hanson. Brooks Publishing Co., Inc. 2004.

Family composition:

- Who are the members of the family system?
- Who are the key decision makers?
- Is decision making individual or group oriented?
- Do family members all live in the same household?
- Is the hierarchy/status in the family related to gender or age?

Primary Caregiver:

- Who is the primary caregiver?
- Who else participates in the care giving?

Child-Rearing Practices:

- What are the family feeding practices?
- What are the mealtime rules?
- What types of foods are eaten?
- What are the beliefs regarding breastfeeding and weaning?
- What are the beliefs regarding bottle feeding?
- What are the family practices regarding making the transition to solid food?
- Which family members prepare food?
- Is food purchased or homemade?
- Are there taboos related to food preparation or handling?
- Which family members feed the child?
- What is the configuration of the family mealtime?
- What are the family's views on independent feeding?
- Is there a discrepancy among family members regarding the beliefs and practices related to feeding an infant/toddler?

Family Sleeping Patterns:

- Does the infant sleep in the same room/bed as parents or other siblings?
- At what age is the infant moved away from close proximity to the mother?
- Is there an established bedtime/naptime? What are the practices of these times?