



BUILDING STRENGTHS WITHIN CULTURALLY DIVERSE FAMILIES

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Our Mission

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf delivers exceptional listening and spoken language solutions for children with hearing loss, reflecting the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



Our Services

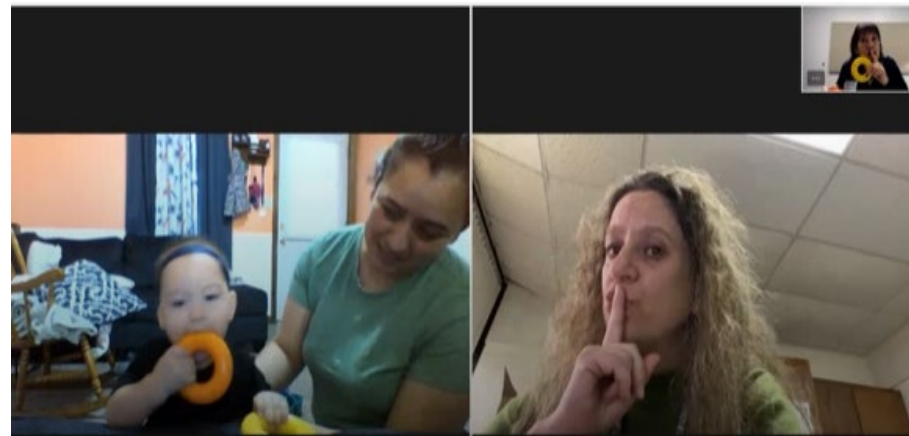
- Two Locations
 - Indianapolis, IN
 - St. Louis, MO
- Early Intervention
- Preschool/Primary Services
- iHear
- Mainstream Support
- Professional Development



Objectives

- Participants will identify and promote strengths within culturally diverse families.
- Participants will determine a variety of strategies to build trust and relationships within diverse communities.
- Participants will assess articles and implement best practices when adapting early intervention services to culturally diverse families.

Why strengths instead of obstacles?



What is cultural wealth?

Cultural wealth is an array of knowledge, skills, strengths, and experiences that are learned and shared by people of the same culture.



What areas of Cultural Wealth are we looking into?

- Language and Literacy
- Family Structures
- Social Communication & Pragmatics
- Ceremonial Rituals & Customs



CULTURAL WEALTH FAMILY TOOL		
Language & Literacy	Comments from the family	How will I adapt my practice to capitalize on the family's language and literacy?
<p>Why we are targeting this area: Parents of diverse cultures share stories in different ways through auditory and visual models. As providers, it is our job to capture each family's strengths in the development of language and literacy in ways that feel natural and meaningful.</p>		
<p>Related questions:</p>		
<p>What names do you call your baby?</p>		
<p>What is the meaning of your child's name and where did it come from?</p>		
<p>How did your parents share stories with you when you were a child? Do you find yourself doing the same thing?</p>		
<p>Do you look at pictures together and talk about those shared experiences?</p>		
<p>What type of pretend play or games did you enjoy in your childhood?</p>		

Language and Literacy

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Family Structures

- Who are the important people in your child's life? Where do they live?
- Who helps support your decisions about your child?
- What do your baby's siblings like to do with him/her?
- How is the value of respect encouraged within your family?



Social Communication & Pragmatics

- When do you talk to your baby the most?
- What are some routines that you do with your baby?
- Who is in your friendship circle? (Extended family, neighbors, friends?)
- What opportunities do you have to meet other people in our community?
- Who takes care of your baby the most when you are working or running errands?
- Was singing an important part of your childhood? If so, what was your favorite song?
- Do you sing to your child?



Ceremonial Rituals & Customs

- What is your favorite activity or routine with your baby?
- Tell me a story about you growing up.
- What does your family do for fun?
- What is your favorite food from your country?
- Do you have a favorite holiday?
- Are there special foods that you enjoy during holiday celebrations?
- What is your favorite tradition from your culture?
- What would you like people to know about you or your culture?



Other strategies to build trust with families

- Looking at pictures together
- Involving the whole family, asking about interests
- Be curious and ask questions and find common ground/interests
- Equalize the power level between family and therapist
- Find a human connection
- Food is a universal topic
- Be ready to include extended family
- Use our “Cultural Wealth Family Tool”



Now what?

- Once we have our cultural family tool filled out, what's the next step?
- Do I adjust my therapy?
- How do I adjust my therapy?
- How do I use the family's cultural wealth to build trust and reach desired outcomes?





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