

Different Perspectives Worksheet

Be aware that families and professionals may have slightly different perspectives. These differences may result in misunderstandings and miscommunication if you are not aware of them.

Families	Professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerned with their child's individual needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with many families and children within the Early Steps program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerned with how their child is progressing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of general development and expectations concerning the specific disability or delay.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Realize how far their child has come.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about present levels of development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are emotionally attached to their child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be more objective. Use a more rational/cognitive approach.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural considerations may affect their view of their child's disability and how they work with professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May have a different cultural view and way of interacting.

After reading the differing perspectives, decide how you would answer these questions.

1. How can these differences increase the distance between families and professionals?
2. Have these differences caused negative attitudes toward "un-involved", "non-compliant" parents? Toward professionals who "don't understand" or "are trying to tell me what to do"?
3. How can you minimize these differences?

Used courtesy of Dr. Susan Donovan, faculty member at the University of Central Florida.