

**Module: Family-Centered Practices
for Infants and Toddlers With Visual Impairments**

Session 1: Building Reliable Alliances

Study Questions for Recommended Reading E:

Foster & Phillips

Foster, M.A., & Phillips, W. (1992). Family systems theory as a framework for problem solving in pediatric physical therapy. *Pediatric Physical Therapy, 4*(2), 70-73.

1. Describe the two shifts in early intervention and what led to them.
2. What is systems theory? Describe two theoretical and conceptual developments in the social and health sciences that have been influential in the shift toward a systems perspective.
3. The authors state that family systems theory is “as much a way of thinking as it is a set of concepts or specific techniques.” What does this quote mean?
4. In the first case story a difficulty at mealtime arises that is ultimately traced to the grandmother. The therapist addresses the problem by including the grandmother. What might have happened if the therapist had taken another approach and tried to work around the grandmother or exclude her from the picture?
5. The mother in the second case story didn’t actively support the therapist’s interventions because they were painful to the child, and she didn’t want “to do that to” her child. The therapist could easily be frustrated by this situation and begin to judge the mother. Describe two strategies the interventionist can use with the mother in this situation.
6. List three of the characteristics of family systems theory that highlight its positive nature.