

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

Session 1: Building Reliable Alliances

Study Questions for Recommended Reading F:

Kalyanpur & Harry (a)

Kalyanpur, M., & Harry, B. (1999a). Legal and epistemological underpinnings of the construction of disability: Maya's story. In M. Kalyanpur & B. Harry (Eds.), *Culture in special education: Building reciprocal family-professional relationships* (pp. 15-45). Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes.

1. The author discusses the “fragility of our own perceptions of competence“ and uses a vignette to illustrate this. List two ways cultures establish the meaning of disability. What influences both models and meanings?
2. On page 20 of this article, the author states, “Indeed, IDEA is a product of 20th century American culture.” What are three core values reflected in IDEA? In what parts of IDEA are these core values reflected?
3. Other cultures may have alternative concepts of self where individualism may be antithetical to the beliefs of families with children with disabilities. Give an example of how values of participatory democracy and individual rights conflict with traditional Chinese values of propriety and individual duties.
4. What is an “immutable characteristic” as defined in this article (see pages 27 and 28)? How is our perception of an immutable characteristic different from the perception of someone from another culture?
5. Explain why some families may be uncomfortable with the professional expectation that a child with disabilities be “normalized.”
6. On page 30, the authors state, “. . . our intention is not to imply that the law is inappropriate—indeed, quite the opposite, for a law that upholds and protects the most highly cherished values of the majority of the people is perfectly suited to its purpose . . .” Why then, is it important to be aware of other points of view and value systems?
7. What does epistemological mean? To what fields does special education owe its epistemological roots?
8. Within the clinical perspective of disability, the author discusses four implicit assumptions. List all four and what is at stake with each of these assumptions.
9. List four assumptions in defining disability that contrast with those of the medical model. Describe how each affects perception of disability.