

Module: **Visual Conditions and Functional Vision:
Early Intervention Issues**

Session 1: Working With Families and Eye Care Professionals

Study Questions and Answers for Recommended Reading C: Killebrew & Corn

1. List two types of interviewing and describe the general communicative outcome of each.
 - **Patient-centered: Ophthalmologists who question and listen to patients; results in greater compliance with treatment and more positive health outcomes**
 - **Doctor-centered: Communication exchanges in which the doctor is giving information or directing communication to their patients; results may vary, but can include a variety of negative emotions such as anger, depression, concern, and intimidation**

2. List six reasons why some parents might indicate that medical, treatment, and referral information is not always helpful during their child's first visit.
 - **Unable to understand the diagnosis**
 - **Devastated by the diagnosis**
 - **Felt rushed during the exam**
 - **Eye care specialist was unable to provide a definitive diagnosis or a prognosis**
 - **Eye care specialist not sensitive to the child or family**
 - **Information received may have contradicted the family's observations or information from other professionals**

3. Results of the study indicated that parents did not seem to understand the full impact of their child's visual condition. Describe how this might impact the family and child when entering Part C (IDEA) early childhood services.
If the family does not understand the full impact of their child's visual condition, they will not understand the importance of specific interventions. The family may also be less enthusiastic about participating in the early intervention program.

4. Describe why ophthalmologists might need to become more informed about early intervention and education services available to families with a child who has a visual impairment.
Eye care specialists may see families prior to their entry into the early intervention system and may be the initial referral resource.

5. Describe four strategies for facilitating communication between ophthalmologists and families as indicated in the article.
 - **Ophthalmologists can ask parents to repeat in their own words information that has been exchanged during the visit.**
 - **Families can develop a comprehensive list of questions to ask the ophthalmologist prior to the visit.**
 - **Ophthalmologists might consider follow-up phone calls to parents.**
 - **Educators could help improve ophthalmologist-parent communication by providing ophthalmologists with lists of services in their local and state areas.**

Killebrew, R., & Corn, A.L. (2002). An initial study of ophthalmologist-parent communication during first office visits. *RE:view*, 34(3), 135-142.