

10 Questions to Ask When You Disagree With a Family's Practice

Adapted from Janet Gonzalez-Mena and Navaz Bhavnagri*

- 1) What is the family's cultural perspective on this issue?
- 2) How do the family's childcare practices relate to their cultural perspective?
- 3) What are the family's goals for the child? How has the family's culture influenced these goals?
- 4) In view of these goals, is the family's practice in the child's best interest?
- 5) Is there any sound research that shows that the family's practice is doing actual harm?
- 6) Is the practice or policy in my family childcare home universally applicable, or is it better suited to a particular culture?
- 7) Did the family choose my family program because of my particular philosophy, even if it is based on a different culture from their own?
- 8) Have I attempted to fully understand the family's rationale for its practices, the complexity of the issues, and other contributing factors?
- 9) Have I attempted to fully explain the rationale for my program practices? Have I looked at how my own culture influence my perspective?
- 10) What are some creative solutions we can come up with together to address the concerns of both parents and my program?

*Gonzalez-Mena, J., & Bhavnagri, N. P. (2000). Diversity and infant/toddler caregiving. *Young Children*, 55(5), 31-35.