

Cultural Considerations (Chapter 3, Section 21)

With every family assessment, a person's history and culture will affect certain areas. Effective engagement with the family is critical to understanding family functioning and cultural considerations.

Use the following questions as a guide to understand cultural difference as part of the assessment.

- What is the purpose and function of the nuclear family?
- What roles do males and females play in the family?
- Does religion play a role in this family? If so:
 - What role does religion play?
 - How do these beliefs influence child-rearing practices?
- What is the meaning, identity, and involvement of the larger homogeneous group (e.g., tribe, race, nationality)?
- What family rituals, traditions, or behaviors exist?
- What is the usual role of children in the family?
- What is the perception of the role of children in society?
- What types of discipline does the family consider to be appropriate?
- Who is usually responsible for child care?
- What are the family's attitudes or beliefs regarding health care?
- What are the family's sexual attitudes and values?
- How are cultural beliefs incorporated into family functioning?
- How does the family maintain its cultural beliefs?
- Who is assigned authority and power for decision-making?
- What tasks are assigned based on traditional roles in the family?
- How do family members express and receive affection?
- How do they relate to closeness and distance?
- What are the communication styles of the family?
- How does the family solve problems?
- How do family members usually deal with conflict? Is anger an acceptable emotion? Do members yell and scream or withdraw from conflict situations?