

Cultural Parameter Checklist

The following is a checklist clinicians can use both prior to and during the treatment of Latino children relating to the implications of the Latino cultural parameters. Regarding each client as an individual as discussed in the previous report, the clinician can examine each parameter and decide if “yes,” the implications apply to his or her particular client and the family, or “no,” the implications do not need to be considered for his or her client and the family.

Parameter	Implications for Treatment	Y/N
Individualism vs. Collectivism	Consider family’s hesitancy to seek therapy	
	Consider child’s and family’s hesitancy to accept and address emotions accompanying speech and language disorders Include extended family members in family education and/or training	
Views of Space and Time	Schedule client’s arrival 15 minutes prior to appointment time	
	Consider effect of client’s mode of transportation on arrival time	
	Consider reduced personal space	
	Greet with a handshake	
Roles of Men and Women	Consider the possible impact of <i>machismo</i> on Latino male clients and discuss the benefits of addressing speech and language difficulties.	
Concepts on Class and Status	Consider sensitivity to social class and status	
	Address family with formal titles (e.g. “Mr.,” “Mrs.,” “Dr.”)	
Values.	Include parent’s values in developing mutually agreed upon and culturally relevant goals	
Language	Be aware of own nonverbal communication and what that is conveying to the family	
	Begin each session with <i>platicando</i>	
Rituals	Consider cultural holidays and celebrations when scheduling sessions	
	Incorporate Latino holidays and celebrations in therapy activities and discussions	
Significance of Work	Consider child’s work setting and responsibilities in deciding on appropriate and functional treatment goals Incorporate the communication skills required by the child’s work environment in therapy activities	
Beliefs about Health	In developing treatment program, consider how modifiable parents believe the disorder to be and how active a role they wish to take in treatment	
	Discuss desired treatment outcomes and perceptions of what is acceptable and successfully treated speech and language	