

## **Abstract**

The ecocultural characteristics of the environment, as well as the parents' perceptions and constructions of their circumstances, were compared between Japanese-American and Euro-American families of children with developmental disabilities. The ecocultural theory (Weisner, 1984) predicts that the parents' constructions and interpretations of their daily living routines will influence the development of these children. Through contrasts and comparisons with Euro-American families, this study investigates the unique characteristics of Japanese and Japanese American families' processes in constructing daily routines. Correlates of mother's sense of quality of life were also investigated. Ethnic differences between the two groups in their use of services, levels of domestic workload, and social support, were found. Euro-American fathers were more available for childcare help than were Japanese fathers. These two ethnic groups had very different overall profiles of how they construct the family's daily routines.