

Parent's Response

*How did you feel when you discovered your child was visually handicapped?
Researchers have distinguished four typical responses...*

- 1 Viewing the child's blindness as a form of punishment of the parent.
- 2 Fearing that others would think that the child's blindness was a result of the parent's having a social disease.
- 3 Feeling guilty because of negligence or because of having violated some moral or social code.
- 4 Feeling personally disgraced.

Parent's Adjustment

*How have you adjusted to your child's blindness?
Researchers have distinguished five modes of adjustment...*

- 1 Acceptance, where the parent is genuinely accepting of the child and realistic and objective about the handicap.
- 2 Denial, where the parent denies the existence or importance of the handicap, failing to admit the fact that the child is in some sense different.
- 3 Overprotection.
- 4 Disguised rejection, where the parent disguises a negative attitude by showing excessive concern with the handicap.
- 5 Overt rejection, where the parent resents the child and blames anybody available for the handicap.

From David Warren's *Blindness and Early Childhood Development*,
American Foundation for the Blind, 1984.