



LOUISIANA Foster Care

Quality Parenting is an approach to strengthening foster care including kinship care, by refocusing on quality parenting for all children in the child welfare system. It is a philosophy to which we hold ourselves accountable for the day-to-day care and parenting of children and teens in the custody of the State of Louisiana

1. *Engage the parents and the foster caregivers.* The two families are entering a critical phase of co-parenting. Rapport building and establishing trust is necessary to move forward to permanency, safety and the well-being for the child. Encourage foster parent participation in the Family Team Meeting.
2. *Establish genuine partnerships and include caregivers as a part of the professional team.* It takes effort to create a team when a family is in crisis and surrounded by chaos following a removal. Set the tone for honesty, genuine openness and clarifying each partner's role. Be transparent in your work.
3. *Gather factual information.* Learn the family's history. Understand the traumas and losses that have impacted the parents and their children. Identify resources in the extended family and circle of friends. Explore the family's history.
4. *Assist the family in planning for change.* Using the information gathered and the relationships established, guide the family through the complexities of the system. Help develop a realistic trauma informed case plan with the family.
5. *Prepare the children, caregivers and parents for transitions.* Even small transitions can be very difficult for our families. Help them plan for beginnings, endings and changes in activities. Teach trauma informed parenting techniques to set the family up for success.
6. *Use the skills of other professionals in serving this family.* Foster caregivers are professionals too. Each child is so important; they warrant all of the supportive services we can identify for the present and the future. The foster caregivers have the most current information about the child.
7. *Be sensitive in your work.* Two families are trying to do their best for the children. The foster caregivers and the biological family have a great challenge. It may be difficult for them to work together. Model the behaviors you hope to see. Coach the child's team of adults to the goal of quality parenting.
8. *You will not have all of the answers or solutions.* Quality parenting results from understanding all of a child's needs. Below the surface much can be learned. Turn to educators, CASA, courts, providers, foster parents, resource centers and community stakeholders.
9. *Instruction develops quality parenting.* Share what you have learned about trauma; i.e. how to empower a child's body for wellness, techniques to create connections, and correction with trauma informed skills.
10. *Too much to remember?* Jot down the following words...
Listen. Clarify. Encourage. Support. Verify. Respect. Collaborate. Share. Consult. Respond.