



LOUISIANA Foster & Kinship Caregivers

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. ***All children deserve quality parenting in all aspects of their lives.*** Parent each child based on the child's culture, religion and ethnicity, special physical or psychological needs, and unique situation including sexual orientation, gender identity and family relationships.
2. ***Relationships between caregivers and biological families are the strongest indicators of child safety, permanency and well-being.*** When serving as a caregiver for a child in foster care, you begin a relationship not only with the child, but also a mentoring, supportive, nurturing and honest relationship with the biological family. Assist in family visitation and support other communication between the child and family members.
3. ***Accepting a child or sibling group into your home is accepting them into your family.*** Quality parents provide love and acceptance of a child in their care and include the child in all aspects of family life such as celebrations, vacations, spiritual practices, and other family activities.
4. ***Participate fully in the care of the child.*** Accompany the child to court, agency meetings, family visits, medical, dental, psychological and other appointments and consult with providers to ensure the needs of the child are being met.
5. ***Encourage the child's strengths and individuality.*** Provide opportunities to develop the child's interests and skills with developmentally appropriate, normal activities.
6. ***Understand the physical and emotional impacts of trauma.*** Children that have experienced abuse and neglect may not respond to regular behavioral interventions. Caretakers must be skilled in dealing with the effects of trauma and parent with trauma in mind.
7. ***Actively support the educational success of the child.*** Participate in school activities and meetings. Encourage the child to participate in extracurricular school activities. Document with photos and copies of programs and certificates.
8. ***Work in partnership with the agency.*** Fully support the permanency goal of the child and commit to care for the child until the child is reunited with his or her biological family, placed in a permanent home, or when removal of the child is in the child's best interest.
9. ***Help the child bring together past, present and future.*** Maintain resource records, medical records, school records, photographs, and mementos of special events and achievements in the child's life.
10. ***You are a professional member of the team.*** Act in a professional manner with the agency and other partners. Share all relevant information promptly. Respect the confidentiality of all information related to the child and the biological family.