



**QPI**  
**LOUISIANA**  
**Home Development**

*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. Set the tone for a professional partnership.** The initial conversation sets the tone for relationship between potential caregivers and the agency. Answer questions rather than asking questions that appear judgmental. Encourage orientation attendance. Return inquiry phone calls within one working day.
- 2. Develop the types of homes needed in your region.** Review regional data and recruit the types of homes most needed in your region, e.g. teens, sibling groups, medically fragile newborns. Communicate these needs during the inquiry call, at orientation, and throughout the certification process.
- 3. Clearly communicate expectations of caregivers.** Share agency expectations at orientation, throughout pre-service training, during the home study assessment and after certification. Ensure caregivers understand that the needs of children and reunification efforts are primary in foster care and caregivers are to fully support a child's permanency plan.
- 4. Clearly define roles.** Explain the court process, the role of the child's attorney and the permanency process. Explain the purpose of the foster care worker and monthly visits with the caregiver. Explain that CASA will visit in the caregiver's home with the child.
- 5. Assist caregivers in developing skills to parent children in care.** Ensure caregivers clearly understand child development and the effects of trauma and can demonstrate their knowledge of skills required to best parent children in foster care. Provide additional training and resources to assist caregivers in further developing skills.
- 6. Assist caregivers in understanding the individual needs and well-being of a child in their care.** Explain the importance of parenting a child based on the child's individuality including religion, culture, ethnicity, race, special physical or emotional needs, gender identity or sexual orientation. Have caregivers provide examples of how they would support a child's individual needs. Encourage caregivers to allow children to talk about their biological families.
- 7. Assist caregivers in developing skills to support biological parents.** Explain the importance of caregivers supporting biological parents and participating in family visits. Encourage caregivers to keep biological parents updated on children's progress and needs. Encourage caregivers to include biological families in special events.
- 8. Share information with caregivers.** Obtain as much information as possible about a child needing placement. Share this information honestly but without judgement when contacting potential caregivers for placement consideration.
- 9. Provide ongoing support to caregivers.** Visit the caregiver's home within 10 days of an initial placement. Return calls promptly. Make support visits when families are in crisis. Connect families to community support. Offer support when children move and allow families time to process moves before calling for additional placements.
- 10. Maintain current caregiver information.** Stress the importance of caregivers having working phone numbers so they can be reached at all times. Maintain current contact information in the case record and agency system. Make sure caregivers provide current emergency contact information and evacuation plans.