



LOUISIANA Family Services

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. **Share information.** Sharing information with the birth family is critical in making the family a partner in this process. When they are well informed they are better able to meet the needs of the family.
2. **Engage the family.** Engage the birth family by building a relationship that establishes trust. Demonstrate respect when identifying family strengths and issues related to the safety, permanency and well-being of their children. Share all relevant information.
3. **Provide contact information.** Be sure the family has your contact information if they need to reach out to you about a crisis, or they need to re-schedule an appointment or have questions.
4. **Seek community support.** Seek community resources that will address the needs of the family and coordinate these services with the family. Assist them in keeping a calendar of scheduled appointments and ensure they have transportation, childcare, etc.
5. **Have open and honest communication.** When assessing the needs of the family, be honest with the family about their needs and the reason the agency is involved. Include the family when decisions are made about services needed and include them in scheduling appointments.
6. **Keep in touch.** Keep in touch with the family and return phone calls timely or ASAP. There are times a family member may need to talk.
7. **Define roles.** Help the family understand their role and the role of the Family Services worker along with the goal of increasing safety and reducing risk of children coming into custody.
8. **Understand the effects of trauma.** Share information with the family on the effects of trauma and how to handle the behaviors of their children with trauma in mind.
9. **Support the best interest of the child.** Work with agency staff when the plan changes and a foster home is needed for the children. Support the child's ties to their siblings and try to place them together. Let birth parents know something about the foster parents their children will be placed with.
10. **Support the birth family.** Be sensitive to birth family if children have to be removed. Even though the family may have tried their best to follow through with safety issues, sometimes things don't work out.