

How can we have a good meeting?

Arrive on time.

Focus on the child's needs and how you can work together to meet them.

Respect the feelings, opinions, cultural differences, and ideas of others.

Recognize the important role that each person has in the life of the child.

Keep what is said in the meeting private



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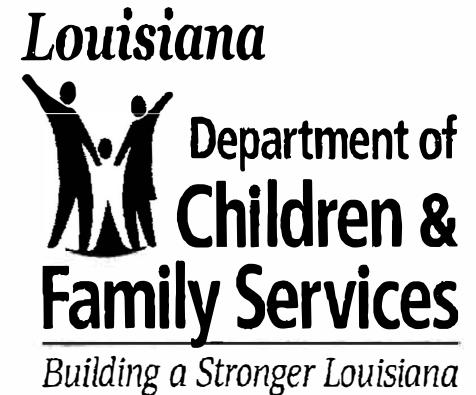
**Greater New Orleans
Region**

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The First Meeting
Between Birth
Parents, Foster
Parents and/or
Relative Caregivers



What is an icebreaker meeting ?

An icebreaker meeting provides an opportunity for birth parents, foster parents and/or relative /caregivers to meet each other and talk about the needs of the child(ren).

It is a way for birth parents, foster parents and relative caregivers to share information about themselves and their family routines.

Icebreaker meetings are most effective when they occur early in a child's placement.

The child's Case Worker facilitates the meeting. It is usually held at the Case Worker's office or Juvenile Court. The meeting usually last about 30-40 minutes

Why is an icebreaker meeting helpful?

When birth parents , foster parents and/or relative caregivers have contact with each other, the child will:

Adjust in the foster home, maintain the bond with his/her birth family, do well in school

Contact with foster parents help birth parents feel at ease about their child(ren) safety and well-being and allows them the opportunity to share information about their child(ren) with the foster family.

What is my role?

Birth Parents

Share information about your child with the foster parents including bedtime or daily routines, favorite toys, foods, hobbies, likes and dislikes, important medical information, etc.

Bring important personal items for your child, such as pictures, favorite toys, clothes, and other special things. Ask information about how your child is doing.

Foster Parents

Discuss why you are a foster parent and your desire to help reunite birth families.

Talk about your commitment to reunification and your willingness to support the child through the process.

Ask for specific information about the child(ren) from the birth parents such as routines, favorite things and medical needs.

Case Workers

Facilitate the meeting.

Make sure the participants understand why the meeting is being held and prepare them for what will be discussed.

Keep the discussion focused on the child's needs.

Ensure that the participants feel safe and comfortable.

Please contact your child's Case Worker if you have questions.