



LOUISIANA

Adoptions How Do I QPI Today?

Model honesty, transparency and respect - Do so with the child, foster parents, and adoptive parents in all contacts and communications. Be forthcoming, accountable and responsive to needs of child, foster parents, and adoptive parents.

Include foster parents in permanency planning for the child. Foster parents should be included in discussions, meetings and court hearings to share information about the child and ideas for permanent homes, even if they are not adopting the child.

Gather information about the child from the foster parents. Foster parents can provide the best information for the day-to-day needs of the child. Ask them to provide information which can be used in identifying the best family for a child, in providing for a smoother transition, and in assisting the adoptive parents to successfully parent the child.

Help foster parents adopt if that is the permanency plan. Many children are adopted by their foster parents but foster parents may need help in understanding and making that decision.

Support connections and relationships. Be sensitive to the relationships between children and their foster parents when a child is moving to an adoptive home. Even though foster parents have decided not to adopt, they still care about the child and will experience some grief and loss and children will also maintain feelings about their previous foster parents and other significant individuals.

Follow up with interested families. When a family expresses interest in adopting a child in your caseload, get back with them as soon as possible—even if another family has been chosen for the child!

Promote informed decision making. Thoroughly research each child's history and provide all information to prospective foster/adoptive parents. Spending quality time with children in your caseload will help you to understand their strengths and needs, their interests, and what they want in a family.

Provide feedback. Keep foster and adoptive parents informed about the child's situation, provide updated information about the child's needs, and feedback in how they are meeting the child's individual needs.

Be responsive and flexible. Provide ongoing support, planned respite and needed services to families to prevent a disruption or crisis from happening BEFORE it is too late! When there is a crisis or concern, respond as soon as possible. Return the call, go to the home, find needed services. Work with foster/adoptive parents when planning home visits, meetings or appointments for the child...they have schedules too!

And Most of All, take every opportunity to acknowledge, support, and thank foster parents and caregivers providing quality care to children in their home.

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, regardless of where they live. 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.