



## **LOUISIANA Foster Care**

### **How Do I QPI Today?**

***Model expectation for honesty, transparency, and respect*** – Do so with the child, birth parent and foster parent in all contacts and while clarifying each team member’s role in ensuring quality care for the child.

***Provide the foster family all information you have about the child*** - As soon as information and documents are received share with caregiver. Photos of the birth family and child’s belongings will reduce anxiety and trauma. Ensure the foster parents have 24 hr contact information for yourself and supervisor.

***Ensure timely medical care*** - The child’s initial examination must occur within 5 days of custody. If Medicaid is presenting a payment issue the agency can pay for this first medical exam, or reimburse the foster parent.

***Recognize financial support needed***- Expedite supports (financial, community, resources, etc) to foster parents by promptly completing and submitting Fast forms, placement authorizations, and special board assessments.

***Support Connections and Relationships***- Within a week of placement, meet with the child and also schedule a meeting between the biological family and foster parents to meet and discuss the child’s needs, preferences, education, medical history, bedtime routines, etc.

***Support Team Concept***- Foster parent participation in the Family Team Meeting is critical; their input and support is needed. Take action to support their participation.

***Support Parenting Partnerships***- Encourage participation of both foster parents and birthparents in child’s medical and dental appointments, IEPs and any other meetings related to the child. When possible, allow foster parents to schedule appointments while considering birth parents’ schedule.

***Support Quality Family Visitation***- Consider schedules of all parties and location when scheduling family visits. Encourage foster parents to provide update on child and allow family to ask questions. Support quality visitation by having guided questions and/or activities ready to use if needed.

***Acknowledge grief and trauma***- These are normal responses experienced by each child and caregiver when moves must occur. Seek to reduce trauma by providing sufficient time and planning for every move based on the child’s individual needs and by providing follow up contact with each whenever possible.

***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.***