



## **Foster & Kinship Caregivers**

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

***All children deserve quality parenting in all aspects of their lives.*** Parent each child based on the child's culture, religion and ethnicity, special physical or psychological needs, and unique situation including sexual orientation, gender identity and family relationships.

***Relationships between caregivers and biological families are the strongest indicators of child safety, permanency and well-being.*** As a child's foster parent, your relationship is not only with the child, but also with the birth parent as a partner in a mentoring, supportive, nurturing and honest manner. Use visits and joint attendance at child's appointments to enhance relationships by sharing information and conveying support and respect for the birth parent.

***Accepting a child or sibling group into your home is accepting them into your family.*** Quality parents provide love and acceptance of a child in their care and include the child in all aspects of family life such as celebrations, vacations, spiritual practices, and other family activities.

***Participate fully in the care of the child.*** Accompany the child to court, agency meetings, family visits, medical, dental, psychological and other appointments and consult with providers to ensure the needs of the child are being met and provide emotional support to the child as needed.

***Encourage the child's strengths and individuality.*** Provide opportunities to develop the child's interests and skills with developmentally appropriate, normal home and community activities.

***Understand the physical and emotional impacts of trauma.*** Children that have experienced abuse and neglect may not respond to regular behavioral interventions. Caretakers must be skilled in dealing with the effects of trauma and parent with trauma in mind. Contact your worker or child's therapist for assistance or resources. Recognize many birth parents have experienced physical and emotional trauma themselves which may result in ineffective responses or interventions.

***Actively support the educational success of the child.*** Participate in school activities and meetings. Encourage the child to participate in extracurricular school activities. Document child's school history with photos, progress reports, copies of programs, awards, and certificates.

***Work in partnership with the agency.*** Fully support the permanency goal of the child as well as the goal of providing a safe, stable and quality level of care until the child is reunited with his or her biological family or placed in a permanent home.

***Help the child bring together past, present and future.*** Maintain medical and school records, photographs, and mementos of special events and achievements in the child's life. Assist and support lifebook work with the child.

***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.***



***You are a professional member of the team.*** Act in a professional manner with the agency and other partners. Share all relevant information promptly. Respect the confidentiality of information related to the child and the biological family, only sharing with those needing information.

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