



Home Development

How Do I QPI Today?

Set the tone for a professional partnership. The initial conversation sets the tone for relationship between potential caregivers and the agency. Answer questions rather than asking questions that appear judgmental. Encourage orientation attendance. Return inquiry phone calls within one working day.

Develop the types of homes needed in your region. Review regional data and recruit the types of homes most needed in your region, e.g. teens, sibling groups, medically fragile newborns. Communicate these needs during the inquiry call, at orientation, and throughout and following the certification process.

Clearly communicate expectations of caregivers. Share agency expectations at orientation, throughout pre-service training, home study assessment, and after certification. Ensure caregivers understand the needs of children and reunification efforts are primary and that they are to fully support a child's permanency plan.

Clearly define roles. Explain the roles and responsibilities of team members and the permanency process including foster care worker, birthparents, foster parents, CASA, child and parents attorneys, hearings and family team meetings.

Share information with caregivers. Obtain as much information as possible about a child needing placement. Share this information honestly and without judgement when contacting potential caregivers for placement.

Assist caregivers in understanding the individual needs and well-being of a child in their care. Explain quality parenting is based on the child's individuality including religion, culture, ethnicity, race, special physical or emotional needs, gender identity or sexual orientation. Ensure foster parents are engaging the child in normal childhood activities based on the child's age, interests and abilities.

Assist caregivers in developing skills to parent children in care. Ensure caregivers clearly understand child development and the effects of trauma and possess the skills required to provide quality parenting to children in foster care. Assess and secure additional training and resources needed to further develop skills.

Assist caregivers in developing skills to support birth parents. Explain the importance of caregivers supporting birth parents and participating in family visits. Encourage caregivers to keep birth parents updated on children's progress and needs. Encourage caregivers to include birth families in special events whenever possible.

Provide ongoing support to caregivers. Visit a new caregiver's home as soon as possible following the 72 hr hearing. Provide all foster parents with emergency contact numbers for HD worker and supervisor. Make support visits when families are in crisis. Connect families to community support. Offer support when children move and allow families time to process moves before calling for additional placements.

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.