



## **Child Protective Services**

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

***Model honesty and transparency.*** Throughout the course of your work with a family, be truthful and respectful about your responsibility and actions to be taken to assure safety of the child and support their ability to safely meet their child's needs.

***Seek information from appropriate source.*** To expedite services and meet the needs of the child entering care, engage the parent in providing critical information about the child i.e. health, educ., allergies, medications, and documents such as birth certificates, tribal affiliation cards, social security and medical cards, photos, etc.

***Engage parent in establishing emotional safety/security.*** To help reduce trauma to the child, with the parents explain to the child he/she will be staying with a safe family and exactly when they will have their first visit. Ensure the child has favored comfort items or toys with them.

***Maintain respect for parental role.*** Commit that you will call the parents from the foster home to give an update on their child and an opportunity to talk with the foster parents and child. Encourage them to have additional child specific information ready for the foster parent and to be able to comfort their child if needed.

***Model information sharing.*** Share basic information about the foster caregivers with the biological parents and child, such as first names, family size, other children in the home, etc.

***Seek to minimize trauma to child.*** While transporting the child to the foster home, provide the child with as much information about the foster family as possible to reduce anxiety about going to a stranger's home. If possible, take 5 minutes, pull over at safe location and call foster parent providing them with positive information about child and also allowing child to hear their voice and talk with them.

***Respect child's need for honesty.*** Upon arrival at the foster home, tour the home with the child, assist in unpacking and reassuring the child with information appropriate to the child's age and level of understanding. Provide them with what they can expect to occur over the next 72 hrs., including who will be contacting them and when, activities to take place, etc. Stay with the child until they are comfortable. Don't rush.

***Provide support to foster parents.*** Share all information with the foster parents needed to care for the child, such as, child's favorite foods, likes and dislikes, sleeping habits, medications, allergies, etc. Provide the foster parents with you and your supervisor's contact information and other contact numbers they may need (HDU worker, FC worker, Supv.)

***Model continuity of relationships.*** Call the biological parents from the foster home to encourage a brief conversation between the adults that is focused on the child, his/her needs and likes, and facilitate a short phone conversation with the child, if possible and remind all parties when they will see each other for a visit.

***And most of all,*** take every opportunity to acknowledge, support, and thank foster parents and caregivers for 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.***