

QPI QUARTERLY

What is QPI

QPI stands for Quality Parenting Initiative. This is an approach to strengthen the foster care experience by focusing on excellent parenting for all children in the child welfare system. The goal of QPI is that children will have effective, loving parenting and reduced trauma ; the best way to achieve this goal is through partnership between birth parents and foster parents.

Who does QPI

COURTS **foster parents**
birth parents **SCHOOLS**
doctors **social workers**
Guardian ad Litem

Why does it Matter?

QPI matters because it reduces the trauma of foster care placement to children and strengthens relationships between important people in a child's life.

Whats all the buzz about: QPI in action!

Two children were placed in foster care for the third time in their life because of parental substance use and their parents' inability to meet their needs. These two children had previously been placed with a foster family and this relationship continued, even after successfully returning home. When the children entered placement again, their mom agreed they would stay with their previous foster family because of the relationship they had built. A permanent decision had to be made for the children and mom agreed the children would stay with the foster family forever. Mom and foster family have built a relationship that will continue past case closure.

Feedback from QPI Participants:

"We were always good about texting each other... the foster family would video call me... send me photos every week... and keep me in the loop when it came to doctor and dentist appointments. The kids were always allowed to talk to me when they wanted. The communication between me and the foster family is really good. We are always keeping in touch." -Mom

"The children were aware all of the adults were working together in a positive way. Overall it is in the best interest of children for caregivers to display healthy, positive working relationships... the foster parents were able to facilitate more visits... which had a positive impact on their relationship and the children. -Guardian ad Litem

"From the very beginning - we have made it transparent that we are all working together. We support mom, she supports us, and the children are able to see that. We share exciting things that happen (school pictures, good grades, sporting events, and singing happy birthday phone calls)... Together, we have built a family. Not everyone's family looks the same, definitely not ours - and that's what makes ours special. We have all become one family supporting and creating the best life for the children!" -Foster Mom

"In the beginning, their work together was helpful in parent visits. It reduces the number of people/workers in a child's life and allows for the visits to feel more natural. It also allows the foster parents to "see" the biological parents as "real" people creating empathy and understanding." -Foster Care Licensing Worker

"The work between foster parents and birth/adoptive parents is critically important in making sure children's don't get caught in a "triangle" between adults who love and care about them... Parents involved in child protection often find themselves isolated or challenged... Connections with foster parents helps to expand their network of supports and gives them resources to draw on in times of crisis/need." -Child Services Manager

"The girls were able to settle into their foster home easier, as there was no tension between the foster parents and their mother. The girls saw that their mother and foster parents communicated and co-parented together, which helped them reduce worries or concerns... The girls had more consistency in visits... When a parent and foster parent can work together, the child's needs are better met." -Child Services Supervisor

"For these children, they have been able to retain relationships that are important to them and ultimately will support them as they proceed through life." -Health and Human Service Director

"Any child protection case is emotional and difficult - for the families, the foster parents, the social workers, the guardian, for attorneys, and yes - even the Judge. We all work together to put the children first. When the origin and foster families collaborate and think of the children first, it gives all of us hope and comfort that things will go well with that family, whatever the outcome. The mom in this case demonstrated a maturity and honesty that resulted in the best situation for these girls, despite a difficult situation." -Honorable Judge Vraa

"In my opinion, the work of parents and foster parents together provides the children in these cases with reinforcement that the foster parents are there to help and support them while their parents work hard to make their home safe again. Their work matters because it shows kids that this system CAN work and that regardless of the final outcome, there are a united set of trusted adults in their worlds that love and care for them." County Attorney

"I saw the children always feeling comfortable with the foster parents and with their mother. I saw the children being open about their feelings... asking questions and getting the same answers from the adults because the communication and understanding between the adults was so strong. The children knew how much their whole network loved them and wanted the best for them." -Child Protection Worker