



Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services
3955 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 431-4500
24-Hour Children's Hotline 696-KIDS (5437)
Ohio Relay Service (TTY) 711

Brainstorming from QPI-C meeting on 11/18/15.

Topic of meeting was "What does great parenting look like".

There were approximately 60 people representing agency and private foster parents, agency staff from a variety of departments and holding a variety of positions, private provider staff, community collaborative staff and other community partners. Meeting was facilitated by Carole Shauffer of the YLC.

Next two meetings to be held on 12/16/15 at Old Brooklyn Bldg, and 1/13/16 at the Jane Edna Hunter Building.

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WHAT DOES GREAT PARENTING LOOK LIKE?

- Commitment to give a child a good life
- Support for the bio family
- Continue good practices the birth family has
- Encourage parents to participate with children (medical, sporting, social) and do that yourself
- Investing in child, helping them feel at home
- Treating and connecting with children equally
- Making the child a part of your own family
- Advocate for the child (in school, with agency)
- Catch the child doing good and reward them. Focus on positive.
- Be a good role model and follow through
- Give the youth different experiences
- Have awareness of child development and have age appropriate expectations.



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- **Be able to set boundaries**
- **Instill values**
- **Treating each child as an individual**
- **Give the child time to adapt and adjust**
- **Be patient**
- **Be aware of the child's background and the trauma they have been through and how it impacts their development.**
- **Be non-judgmental of the child and the birth parents**
- **Have a desire/openness/willingness to learn new methods of parenting**
- **It's okay to make mistakes, but own them**
- **Understand that there are stories behind behavior**
- **Be resourceful and know the community supports that are available**
- **Have a calling, or deep motivation for doing this work**
- **Need to be resilient and have supports for themselves**
- **Build on child's strengths**
- **Be willing and committed to communicating with the system professionals (attorneys, GAL's, SW's).**
- **Willingness to listen to the child and help the child express their thoughts and feelings**
- **Teach kids there are consequences**
- **Participate in the consequences with them allows for one on one time/learning experience**
- **Prepare for children coming into your home (is there a way system can support that)**
- **Be transparent and trusting of the team.**
- **Be willing to communicate honestly (for both caregivers and agency staff/other team members)**
- **Staff needs to be understanding of caregivers if they are having difficulty handling a specific child's behaviors.**



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- Recognizing own limitations and dealing with those as to not traumatize anyone involved.
- Can still be involved in a child's life even if child is moved or situation changes. System needs to be able to facilitate that
- Have a desire to go above the minimum standards
- Support transition back to family or forward to permanency
- Have some technological awareness
- Being a kin provider doesn't always mean you are equipped with knowledge or resources. Nor do you have advance warning of a child coming to your home.
- Providing a secure and safe environment
- Set a "no hypocrisy" zone in the home
- Recognize the power of supporting each other, and being in community
- Be willing to be a mentor/support for new caregivers

HOW DOES A GREAT CAREGIVER WORK WITH THE COURTS?

- Caregiver may not know they have rights in court (right to share what is going on with the child at court)
- Legal duty of child placing agency to notify caregiver of their right to be heard.
- Know that older children also have a right to be part of the court proceedings
- Foster parents need to be respected at court and involved.
- If caregiver has a better understanding of court process they can better support the child.
- Foster Parent over attachment for "self" reasons
- Clear goals
- Full view of Bio parents
- Have a clear understanding of the expectations and the permanency plan



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- **Need continued info about the child after reunification.**
- **Need appropriate sharing of info when the child is placed**