

## ***Before entering the foster home, youth need you to know:***

- The importance of allowing the child(ren) to stay in contact with former family and friends
- Why meet and greets with the foster family before moving in can help everyone feel more comfortable
- Foster & Adoptive Parent(s) know any medical concerns for the child(ren)
- Foster & Adoptive Parent(s) are aware of the child(rens) backgrounds and why behaviors may occur because of their experiences
- Foster & Adoptive Parent(s) have ethnic training before caring for any child(ren) that are from a different racial or ethnic background
- Foster & Adoptive Parent(s) learn about the child(rens) triggers/trauma by asking the child(ren) and family
- Social workers share what the child(ren) like or don't like with the Foster & Adoptive Parent(s)

**Building solid foundations to collaborate to serve kids and remembering that the heart of the system is the child/youth and families.**

**~Original QPI-MN goal**

**[www.qpimn.org](http://www.qpimn.org)**



## **PART I Before entering the foster home**

This is an outreach by youth who are currently in foster care or have been in the foster care system. Youth that want to make a difference and have their voices be heard.

## ***While living in a foster home, youth need you to know:***

- The importance of the bond between foster parents, parents and the children
- Some children do not express their feelings verbally it can come up in different ways of expression.
- Do not pry the child to speak about their trauma if it makes them uncomfortable. Make it known that you are a safe person to talk to when they are ready. Being a safe person is respecting our boundaries
- Foster & Adoptive Parent(s) need to be educated on black and brown foster children's hair. Youtube is a great reference for how to style black and brown children's hair
- Foster & Adoptive Parent(s) have open conversations with the child(ren) about their hygiene needs (hair, body, face)

**A primary system goal for QPI is to ensure excellent, developmentally informed parenting, for every child.**



### **PART II**

## **While living in the home**

We as youth have collected this information so that our voices about our experiences while living in the foster homes can become safer, healthier, and a more loving environment.

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## ***After leaving the home youth need you to know:***

- Make sure the child(ren) has everything they came with when they leave the foster house
- Explain that you are not kicking them out. Help the child(ren) understand why the move is happening
- Make sure the child(ren) can keep in contact with past foster parents, friends, or school support system if they choose to
- Do not force the foster child to have a relationship with the past foster family if they choose not to

**Relationships are vital for children to thrive into adulthood, whether this is developing new relationships or maintain longstanding ones.**



## **PART III After the child leaves the home**

This is the part where the child(ren) is leaving the home and is either going back home, to a relative caretaker or has found an adoptive home. As youth, we have experienced things like these listed we need our voices to be heard about these things so other youth can feel the way they should about leaving.

