



MODELED AFTER
QUALITY
PARENTING
INITIATIVE'S (QPI)
ICEBREAKER
MEETINGS



"Empower, Support, Protect"

Human Services Department
COUNTY OF SONOMA

FAMILY, YOUTH, & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
(707) 565-4300

SONOMA COUNTY FAMILY, YOUTH & CHILDREN



PARENT CAREGIVER
INTRODUCTIONS

&

PARENT CAREGIVER
CONVERSATIONS

PARENT CAREGIVER INTRODUCTION

Provides an opportunity, within approximately 48 hours of the Detention Hearing, for birth & resource parents to get to know each other a little & talk about the needs of the child. Parents are able to share information about themselves & their family routines and traditions. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes to an hour.



PARENT CAREGIVER CONVERSATION

You already know each other so you may be asking yourself why this is necessary. This conversation helps relative, or Non-related Extended Family Member (NREFM), resource parents discuss your **new** roles during the Family Reunification process. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes to an hour.

“What is my role?”

BIRTH PARENT

- Share information about your child with resource parent(s) like bedtime, daily routines, favorite toys & foods, hobbies, likes/dislikes, important medical information, etc. Bring important personal items for your child, such as pictures, favorite toys, clothes, & other special things. Ask how your child is doing.

RESOURCE PARENT

- Ask specific information about the child from the birth parent such as routines, favorite things, medical needs, cultural traditions & other information that will help care for the child. Talk about why you are a resource parent & your desire to help reunify the child with their birth parent.

FYC STAFF

- Ensure participants understand purpose of meeting. Keep discussion focused on child's needs. Ensure participants feel safe & comfortable.
- Guide a discussion about how birth parent & resource parent will communicate & what it will look like for each of them to maintain boundaries moving forward
- Encourage both parties to continuously update the Social Worker about their co-parenting relationship & ask questions

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARENT CAREGIVER INTRODUCTION or PARENT CAREGIVER CONVERSATION

- *Arrive on time*
- *Focus on the child's needs and how you can work together to meet them*
- *Respect the feelings, opinions, cultural differences of the other party*
- *Recognize the important role that each person has in the life of the child at this time*
- *Keep what is said at the meeting private*