

Guiding Values for the La Crosse County Foster Care Program

- ❖ Foster Parents are professionals, and as professionals you are bound by laws pertaining to confidentiality. Your actions reflect not only on yourself but are viewed as a snap shot of the entire foster care system.
- ❖ Foster parents are an integral part of the family/child's team.
- ❖ Decisions need to be made on the “BEST INTEREST” of the child (Permanence, Safety, Well being).
- ❖ Professionals have to keep the needs of the child in the fore front.
- ❖ Biological families are the foundation for their children.
- ❖ Visitations between the child and their parents need to be viewed from the vantage point of the child. Our responsibility is to prepare the child for the visit and to support the child after the visit.
- ❖ The role of the professional is to support, encourage and empower the biological family.
- ❖ Children in foster care have a right to permanence in a timely manner.
- ❖ As partners with families we need to be respectful of cultural and familial differences.
- ❖ All children need nurturing to develop to their fullest potential; children in foster care are especially in need of a nurturing relationship. As foster parents one of your primary roles is to provide this nurturing relationship to the children entrusted to your care.
- ❖ Foster Parents have a variety of roles: parent figures, mentors, coaches, in the lives of children in foster care. Sometimes you will see the results of your efforts and at other times the seeds you plant, will show up years later.
- ❖ In order for children in foster care need to develop academic and social competencies, foster parents must be involved in the child's educational and after school programs.
- ❖ Children in foster care learn by experiencing normal activities. Children can learn and develop social and independent living skills by participating in normal household routines.