The Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) was developed to ensure that every child removed from the home because of abandonment, abuse or neglect is cared for by a foster family who provides skilled, nurturing parenting while helping the child maintain connections with their family. The foster family works closely with child welfare agencies, case workers, courts, attorneys and others to protect the child’s best interests.

One of the key ways the QPI supports these foster families is by providing in-depth training to help them manage the challenges they face. These may be routine events, like appearing in court, or more complex problems like helping a child transition home, coping with behavioral problems, or advocating for special education services. The training also helps families to better understand any information they were given about the child at the time of placement so they can be proactive in advocating for the child and getting the right assistance.

The Just-in-Time web based learning project is designed to connect foster parents with trainers who can answer their questions and give them a framework for dealing with these challenges. The project coordinator will receive requests for training and will quickly identify individuals who are available to provide that training. These may be subject matter experts, like doctors, psychologists, lawyers or teachers. Or they may be practice experts like other foster parents who have successfully dealt with the same situation. The coordinator will identify other families who can benefit from the training, arrange a time and coordinate technical aspects of the training.

The training is provided live online and is easily accessible from any internet connected computer. Participants are able to see and interact with trainers so that they can ask questions, clarify points, or give examples of scenarios to process. These training webinars are video recorded, edited, and available at no charge for use by other families who are unable to attend or for later use as a refresher for participants.

The Quality Parenting Initiative is a joint project of the Youth Law Center, Florida’s Department of Children and Families, 15 Community Based Care Agencies and the Eckerd Family Foundation. For more information, visit our website at: www.QPIFlorida.com