Family First Goals

- Help children remain safely at home with their families whenever possible
- Ensure that children who must enter foster care are placed in the most family-like and least restrictive settings possible
- Improve standards of care for children and families

What Can I Expect?

Your caseworker will meet with you to discuss your family’s needs and concerns. Together, you will develop a Prevention Services Plan to determine what services will be provided to address those needs and concerns. The services will be designed to help your child(ren) remain safely at home if possible. You are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to discuss your family’s strengths, possible community supports, and to have your voice heard.

After that, your caseworker will meet with you at least once every other month to assess safety, review the plan, get your perspective on the services you are receiving, and discuss whether changes are needed.

At least once every month, your caseworker will contact the service providers who are working with your family. They will discuss activities completed by both the service provider and your family, desired outcomes and progress, concerns for safety, and changes to service delivery.

At least every 90 days, your caseworker will review the Prevention Services Plan and provide a summary of family and service provider contacts.
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Family First supports the use of evidence-based practices to promote the well-being of children, youth and families. The following are examples of programs that have been proven to have good results.

Multi-Systemic Therapy

Multisystemic Therapy is an intensive family- and community-based treatment for youth with possible substance use issues and their families. The target population is 12- to 17-year-olds who are at risk of out-of-home placement due to delinquent behavior.

Functional Family Therapy

Functional Family Therapy is a short-term prevention program for at-risk youth and their families. Functional Family Therapy aims to address factors that impact the development of 11- to 18-year-olds who have been referred for behavioral or emotional problems.

Ohio START

Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) is an evidence-informed children-services-led intervention model that helps public children services agencies bring together caseworkers, behavioral health providers and family peer mentors into teams dedicated to helping families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance use disorders.

Healthy Families America

Healthy Families America is a home visiting program model designed to work with families who may have a history of trauma, intimate partner violence, mental health issues and/or substance use issues. Services are offered to families during pregnancy or soon after their children's birth and can be provided long-term.

Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers is a home-visiting parent education program that teaches new and expectant parents skills to promote positive child development and prevent maltreatment. Parents as Teachers aims to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development, enhance parenting practices, promote early detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase school readiness and success.