

DCS Practice Model Pyramid

Indiana Practice Model

Indiana's Practice Model is based on the **DCS Vision, Mission and Values**. Core **Practice Values and Principles** guide staff on interacting with children, families, the community and each other. DCS will build **trust-based relationships** with families and partners by exhibiting **empathy, professionalism, genuineness and respect**. DCS staff uses the skills of **engaging, teaming, assessing, planning and intervening** to partner with families and the community to achieve better outcomes for children.

DCS Values

We believe:

- Every child has the right to be free from abuse and neglect
- Every child has the right to appropriate care and a permanent home
- The best place for children to grow up is with their own families
- Children and older youth have the right to permanent and lifelong connections
- Parents have the primary responsibility for the care and safety of their children
- In personal accountability for outcomes, including one's own growth and development
- Every person has value, worth and dignity

Practice Skills

Trust-Based Relationships

Genuineness, Empathy, Respect, Professionalism

Practice Principles Based on Values

Vision and Mission

Vision: Children thrive in safe, caring, and supportive families and communities.

Mission: The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) protects children from abuse and neglect, and works to ensure their financial support..

