

DO's and DON'T's In Relationship Building With Girls

"DO's":

- ☺ Ask girls who they are, ask about their lives, & what they need
- ☺ LISTEN to girls
- ☺ Let girls know you care about them (even when they mess up ...)
- ☺ Let girls know you have faith in them
- ☺ Spend *time* with girls
- ☺ Let them know "we all make mistakes"
- ☺ Identify and acknowledge their strengths and skills
- ☺ Praise them for doing well
- ☺ Teach them how to make good decisions ~ then let them make them!
- ☺ Help them connect/reconnect with their family and other people important to them
- ☺ Help them grieve the loss of important relationships, i.e. parent/s, friends
- ☺ Be *with* them when you connect them with other service providers

"DON'T's":

- ☹ "Judge" or lecture girls or their families
- ☹ Assume you know what they are all about because you read their file
- ☹ Think you have all the answers and know "what's best" for them
- ☹ Shame girls (shame is often times an integral part of their being)
- ☹ Tell girls they "aren't trying"
- ☹ Expect them to tell their life stories to people they don't know or trust
- ☹ Tell them they don't care about their child/children, family
- ☹ Give up on them
- ☹ Lie to girls, withhold information or break promises