Benefits of Home Visits

- Allows for a greater understanding of the family dynamic
- Setting a solid foundation for developing relationships
- Aligns with person driven planning
You Never Know....

Safety cannot be guaranteed, but through appropriate planning and by taking reasonable precautions, we can reduce the risk factors and heighten our own safety.
Famous Safety Quotes

- “Forewarned is forearmed”
- “It will never happen to me”
- “If safety is common sense, then we need no trainers, training programs, safety officers, or safety legislation”
- “There is no such thing as zero risk”
Before You Visit

• If possible, drive by the home before visiting to gain knowledge of:
  • Neighborhood
  • Parking
  • Routes
Before You Visit

• Car is in good working condition and gassed
• Map and flashlight available
Before You Visit

- Call the family to confirm the appointment
- Ask client to secure pets and meet you at the door
- Ask client how many people will be home at time of visit
Before You Visit

- Consider carrying pepper spray, whistle, and hand sanitizer
- Plan what items you will take into the home.
- Plan to wear an identification badge
Before You Visit

- Dress simply
- Wear sensible footwear
- Best practice is scent free
- Program important phone numbers into cell phone
- Have a fully charged cell phone
Before You Visit

- Go in teams if possible
- Provide your coworker with
  - Your cell phone number
  - The address of the home, time of meeting, and expected return time
  - Relevant information about family, if necessary
- Anything else?
Word Activity

Arriving at Home Visit

- Park in a well-lit, heavily traveled area
- Do not park in alleys or closed off areas
- If parking in driveway:
  - Have car face out for quick departure
  - Do not park in a spot that can be blocked in
Arriving at Home Visit

- Check for:
  - Signs of animals (dog toys, food bowls)
  - Loose/broken stairs/Slip/trip hazards
- Do not go back and forth to your car
- Refrain from doing paperwork or making phone calls in your car

CHANGE DOG
Families need their “initial concerns” addressed before moving forward in a relationship. “Initial concerns” include:

- fear of the unexpected
- fear of being judged
- overcoming previous negative experiences
40+ Programs That Might Touch One Family
Requiring Systems Navigation

Education
- Public Schools
- ESEA, Title I
- School Lunch & Breakfast
- Head Start
- IDEA
- After-School Programs
- Textbook Funding
- Tests & Achievement
- Teacher Issues
- GED

Health & Food
- Medi-Cal – EPSDT
- Healthy Families Parent Expansion
- Child Health & Disability Program
- Expanded Access Primary Care
- Training, Care, Funding
- Food Assistance
- Child Lead Poisoning Prevention
- HIV/AIDS Prevention & Education
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Food Stamps
- WIC

Social Services
- TANF
- CalWORKs Child Care
- CalWORKs, CalWorks
- Child Care – CCDBG, SSBG, CalWORKs
- Child Care

Child & Family Services
- Child Care
- CCDBG, SSBG, CalWORKs
- Child Care, etc.
- After School Programs – 21st Century
- Learning Centers, etc.
- Promoting Safe & Stable Families
- Child Abuse & Neglect Programs
- Foster Care – Transition, Independent
- Young, Etc.
- Adoption, Assistance, Adoption
- Opportunities

Mental Health & Probation
- School-Based MH Services for Medi-Cal
- Kids
- Probation Officers in Schools
- Cardenas, Schiff
- Legislation
- Health Care Through Probation
- Mental Health
- Evaluations
- Juvenile Halls

Boyfriend in trouble
Development of the Relationship

Clearly explain your role and purpose

- Connections occur when you and the family find common ground
- Trust develops when appointments are kept
- Keep an open mind
- Be student and family centered
- Offer practical help such as food and clothing
During the Visit

- If you prefer to go in pairs let family know there are 2 people and why
- Introduce yourself using first and last name, and provide business card
During the Visit

- Sit near an exit or hallway to view other rooms
- Keep your cell phone and keys within reach
- Try not to have anything between you and door access
Trust Your Instincts

• If you feel unsafe, leave.
• Create a false reason for leaving if necessary
• Try to remain as calm as possible and leave the house quickly
• Try to keep a barrier between you and the aggressive individual if possible
• Speak slowly and softly
During the Visit

• Take “small giveaways” or toy bag to occupy young children
• Refrain from using the restroom
• Maintain confidentiality
• Respect personal space
Ending the Visit

- Summarize the information you’ve gathered
- Identify next steps with family
- Provide an opportunity for the client to discuss anything further he or she may feel is important
- Make sure clients have follow-up contact information
Home Visiting activity
Ending the Visit

- Keys in hand
- Walk around your car
- Lock you doors and start car
- Refrain from making phone calls or doing paperwork until you are in a safe location
Recap

• Keep your hands free
• Walk with confidence
• Report safety concerns to supervisor
• Dial 911
• Follow your local protocol
Local Agency Protocol

• Understand your local agency’s protocol before conducting home visits

• When dealing with an aggressive client, follow your agency’s protocol

• These safety tips augment your agency’s protocol
S.I.N.G

- Solar plex (stomach)
- Instep (foot)
- Nose
- Groin
Contact Page

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CaPROMISE is funded through a cooperative agreement U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Grant #H418P130003. The contents of this Website do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.
Resources

- Learning to trust in home visiting: Mothers’ perspectives [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3079&context=etd](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3079&context=etd)