

HOME VISIT SAFETY PROCEDURE

Purpose

Present guidance and offer suggestions to help ensure safety when on a home visit.

Guidance

Home visiting offers staff an opportunity to meet families in their own surroundings. Most settings and situations are safe and non-threatening. Families from your site, with whom you have a relationship, do not want to expose you to unsafe situations any more than you want to be exposed to such circumstances. However, it's important to be aware of safety considerations and take appropriate precautions.

Procedure

Make sure someone is aware of your plans.

- Always keep your Outlook calendar up to date.
- Ensure that Child Plus is up to date with the most current information, including family address and phone number.
- Wear easily recognizable work identification (e.g., employee badge).
- Use common sense, trust your judgment and leave immediately if there is danger.
- Know the neighborhoods that you visit by being observant and by getting to know important details of the neighborhood from the people you visit.
- Carry a cellphone.
- Keep your keys in your pocket.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

- Get clear directions to the home.
- Check with the family about parking, pets, etc. Always park in a way that you cannot be “boxed in” by anyone else.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Bring only what you need for the visit.
- Once inside a home, be aware of where the exits are.
- Do not sit with your back to the exit door if possible.

USE COMMON SENSE AND TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT

If you feel unsafe, leave.
Often our “gut instincts” are correct.