New Mexico Early Childhood Education & Care Department | Family Support and Early Intervention Division HOME VISITING

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT & DISABILITY

BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFE HOME VISITING

BEFORE THE VISIT

- ✓ System for checking in and out of the office
- ✓ Does situation call for 2 home visitors?
- ✓ Notification: Safe / Code Word
- ✓ Confirm visit: Illness, will additional household members be present, parking
- ✓ Review family notes prior to visit
- ✓ Alternative communication if no cell service during visit

YOUR CAR AND VALUABLES

- ✓ DO NOT take valuables to your visit
- ✓ Carry ID, fully charged cell phone, keys
- ✓ Ensure your car has at least ½ tank of gas
- ✓ Carry a first aid kit and flash light
- ✓ Be aware of any obstacles in parking area to safely exit on the street

DRESS FOR THE VISIT

- ✓ No dangling highly priced jewelry
- ✓ No revealing clothing
- ✓ Pants / slacks are best for flexibility
- ✓ Comfortable shoes
- ✓ Keep your hands as free as possible
- ✓ Wash hands before and after visit

DURING THE VISIT

- ✓ Situational awareness
- ✓ Keep visit friendly but professional
- ✓ Be calm, confident, observant and in control of your own space inside the home
- ✓ Position yourself near an exit
- ✓ Prepare a script for emergency situations
- ✓ Safety hazards in home: animals, odors, weapons, etc.
- ✓ Follow your gut - intuition

AFTER THE VISIT

- ✓ Situational awareness
- ✓ Scan area where you parked your car, check tires
- ✓ Check in with supervisor

AGENCY POLICIES

- ✓ Universal Precautions: be alert to the presence of body fluids and take necessary precautions. Have latex or rubber gloves available for use in emergencies
- ✓ Review your agencies safety policies
- ✓ Procedure in place when Home Visitor does not check in

Developed for the NM ECECD Home Visiting Program by the
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