

NM HOME VISITING BITS AND BITES

Home Visitor Safety: 2nd Quarter Sessions' Takeaways

HOME VISITOR SAFETY

Safety in Home Visiting starts before the visit. Home Visiting Programs should have processes to ensure ongoing safety and prepare home visitors before they visit homes. Being prepared and letting the supervisor know your schedule, being aware of the surroundings, and having a reliable vehicle in good order will ensure a safe visit. All situations cannot be anticipated, but you can develop strategies to use in most situations. Remember that there are also processes after the home visit that will support a safe trip back to the office or to the next visit. Jenny Ferranti shared Gila Regional's safety protocols during the Brown Bag Session and Claudia Trujillo and Patty Mendez from Community Action Agency Thriving Kids in Southwestern New Mexico shared their strategies during the Community of Learner session:

Preparing before a home visit

- Prepare and plan ahead
- Maintain situational awareness
- Dress practically and avoid valuables
- Always carry your work identification card visibly
- Communicate your location

During and after a home visit

- Park strategically
- Introduce yourself clearly
- Set personal boundaries
- Monitor group dynamics
- Minimize risks with pets
- Carry basic safety tools such as a flashlight, basic first aid, whistle, pet treats, etc.
- Have an exit plan
- Respect confidentiality and privacy
- Know when to call for help
- Debrief after visits

RESOURCES

Clock Shark Customer Support: 1 (800) 828-0689
<https://www.clockshark.com/>

HV Orientation handout out: [Best Practices for Safe Home Visiting](#)

Gila Safety Protocols
[Gila Regional Safety Protocols](#)

ECLKC Home Visitor Safety
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/safety-practices/home-visitor-supervisors-handbook/home-visitor-safety>

For more information, visit us below