

Safety Practices for Home Visits

Category: Safety & Home Visits	Regulations: <i>Head Start Performance Standards: 1302.22, 1302.34, 1302.35, 1302.44, 1302.47</i>
Purpose: Seedlings staff may need to go to the families homes to support, provide education, or to complete a home visit. The safety of the staff, children and families are the highest priority	
Activity	Steps
Planning your visit:	<p>a. Mark on your calendar that you will be going on a home visit (address, duration of time you plan to be there, and if you are going alone or with someone else)</p> <p>b. Let your manager/supervisor know that you will be visiting a family and any other details they should be aware of</p> <p>c. Take your cell phone with you and make sure you exchange numbers with someone else so they can get ahold of you</p> <p>d. If you think you need another person to go with you to the visit due to family situations. Let your center manager know so you can plan accordingly on who will be going with you. The second person needs to have a purpose and some type of relationship with the family.</p>
Staffing	A staffing meeting with the content team and center managers is always an option to determine a plan to best fit the situation.
When you get to the home/visit:	<p>a. Before you get out of your vehicle check your surroundings. Look for things that seem out of the ordinary (for example people sitting in cars, or people sitting/standing outside of the home). Make sure you feel safe to get out of your car and make sure you are at the right place.</p> <p>*If you do not feel comfortable getting out of your car, always know that you can just drive away and complete the visit at another time/place. Your safety always comes first.</p> <p>b. At any time during the visit, if you feel uncomfortable in the home. Text your supervisor/manager to let them know how you are feeling and let them know you will be ending the visit early and expecting you back at your center soon. Let the family know that you are heading back to the center and will connect with them at another time.</p> <p>b. If you notice anything strange or out of the ordinary while you are at the visit. Let your center manager know of what you saw and document it in your home visit summary in Child Plus. If further information or steps are needed your center manager will handle the situation.</p>

Health

Covid Precautions	<p>If a member of the visit is displaying any one of the symptoms without proof of a negative covid test or another diagnosis, such as a seasonal allergy list the home visit will need to be rescheduled. Please consult with the Health and Nutrition Content Specialist for additional steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Fever (100.4 and over) or chills,-Cough,-Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,-Fatigue,-Muscle or body aches,-Headache,-New loss of taste or smell,-Sore throat,-Congestion, or runny nose (not associated with a known cold or allergies),-Nausea or vomiting,-or Diarrhea
Going into the Home	<p>Before entering the home, the home visitor will take the fully stock safety kit with them. When they enter the home the staff member with either wash there hands or apply hand sanitizer that can be found in the safety kit.</p>