

# Home Visit Tips

Every child 12 months and older must be seen alone during some portion of each home visit. If the child is non-verbal, document your interaction with the child. For example, ask the child to show you their bedroom and new toys, and play with them. If the child is verbal, address any needs the child may have, any services the child is receiving, and any goals, if pertinent. If the child is receiving therapy, tutoring, medication management, etc., speak with them about each of these and document. For children under age 3, document any developmental milestones you observe during the visit, such as rolling over, crawling, eating habits, sleeping habits, and speech. Document the child's adjustment to the home/caregiver and observations about the relationship. Review any safety plan in place and assess & monitor child's safety accordingly. Verify sibling & parent visits (family time), important connection contacts and how these are being maintained.

- The child **MUST** be awake for part of each home visit.
- Conduct the interview in a location comfortable for the child.
- If this is your first time meeting the child introduce yourself and your role. Utilize the questions on the "All About Me" Form to get to know the child.
- Start the conversation off with small talk about the child's interests and ease into the tougher questions.
- Get down to the child's eye level once you begin asking the tougher questions.
- Use simple, clear, and age appropriate language.
- Refer to people and anatomy in the terms the child uses. Clarify what the child means when they use unfamiliar language.
- Have the child demonstrate actions or behaviors they are describing.
- Don't make promises and answer the child's questions honestly.
- Use open ended and close ended questions as appropriate. Open ended allows the child to openly communicate while close ended questions will get a definitive answer when needed.
- Allow for pause after questions because children need time to process questions.
- Transition between topics to help guide the conversation smoothly.
- Observe the child's behavior during the interview when discussing the various topics.
- Use positive reinforcement.
- Allow the child the opportunity to ask you questions.
- Thank the child for talking to you and make sure you say goodbye to the child before leaving the home.