Home Visiting

 I found a Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. This visitation program was developed in order to focus on the social, economic, and environmental factors, and determining whether the results are healthy and developmentally positive in terms of home visiting and assessments. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funded a review and assessment of the “promising practices” to be used.

Website: http://cacenter-ecmh.org/news/what-is-the-maternal-infant-and-early-childhood-home-visiting-program-miechv/

In order for home visiting staff to be safe in their work, there are a few guidelines that should be followed. First, you should always leave an itinerary in the office, so that others know where you are or how long. Workers should also wear a name badge if possible, in order to be easily recognized and if anything goes wrong, a badge may provide support and explain why you are at a certain location. Another useful tool to use when home visiting is to gather information about the neighborhood before going on visits. This can be beneficial to know of any suspicious activity that might be going on in an area. Always have a plan for violence, including an escape plan if that needs to happen. Having a plan before going on the visit is necessary because it will increase your likelihood of following the plan if you have one set, rather than trying to decide as the violence occurs. The last safety recommendation, I would make is to avoid parking in deserted or dark-lit areas. This can protect you as you arrive or leave a scene. Even if it means walking farther, being able to make a quick safe get-away if necessary is essential for your safety.

Professionals can show considerations for diverse families in being sensitive to all aspects of whom they are working with. A wide variety of useful resources for different types of families can be beneficial to have, in order to refer or help them if they need other means. Providing a balanced and constant attitude with all families, regardless of their differences, will in turn show that you do not treat families uniquely based on their differentiations. Being open and knowing a variation of religious and ethnic backgrounds can support having respect for families as well. This information was acquired by many different internship experiences with varying families as well as course work discussing the importance of being cross culturally competent.

An article, *Effective, Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs in Every State at Risk if Congress Does Not Extend Funding*, states that the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, has been proven effective for strengthening at or high risk families, as well as saving money in the long run. The article discusses that all home visiting programs improve child health and development all around, can increase school readiness, enhance parents’ knowledge and ability to support child’s development, and improve families’ economic stability.

Citation: (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (n.d.). Retrieved March 30, 2015, from http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=4103)

 In my opinion, an assessment evaluating parent-child relationships and behaviors could be beneficial because it shows if early intervention is needed and how to move forward based on the results of the assessment given. From the intervention needs, there should be referred services of support that might help the family become stronger and be able to function successfully.