Home Visiting

*Background Information*

During our session, our guest presenters provided a training focused on phases and tools of home visiting. This is a critical element within programs that are focused on family strengthening. As part of the training, you received materials, these will be a part of this reflection assignment.

*Assignment*

Based on your learning during this session, as well as knowledge and experience you have gathered over the years, and/or original research you have read, describe the following:

* *Do some online research and locate information about a particular program that has a home visiting component. Briefly describe the home visiting program (who it provides services for, the goals of the program, evidence of effectiveness). Provide the web link for the program.*
  + First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission has a home visiting component called Butte Baby Steps that offers an intensive in home visiting program to expectant and new mothers under the age of 24. The goals of this program is for children to receive appropriate care from family members that promote optimal development; for children and parents to engage in a supportive and loving relationship built through positive parent/child interactions; for families to have connections to support systems, access to resources and empowerment to reach their goals and advocate for themselves; and for children to live in a safe environment that is free from violence, abuse, and neglect. Evidence of effectiveness has been reported in the programs annual evaluations report in which families enrolled in the program have indicated positive outcomes.
* *Describe 5 key safety recommendations or guidelines for home visiting staff.* 
  + *Include ways of recognizing potential dangers and how to respond to situations that may arise.* 
    - Be ready to respond to any serious situation
      * Follow general safety guidelines at all times
      * Leave immediately if feeling uncomfortable at any time
      * Keep vehicle maintained (have gas)
      * Call 911
    - Be in contact with other staff members
      * Always have your phone on you that is charged and ready to go and have back up battery or car charger on hand
      * Leave a note of itinerary so people know where you are and when you’ll be back.
      * If available have another staff member tag along to appointment, especially if it’s a first visit.
    - Know your client
      * Know client background
      * Drive by neighborhood before visiting
      * Schedule appointment that is convenient for client
      * Call before going into home to make sure no one else is present and that it is safe
* Be aware of surroundings and be able to recognize possible dangers (smells associated with substance use, unusual or potentially dangerous animals, unfamiliar people, strange behavior)
* Know your agency policy and procedure
  + If adult is not present or cannot be seen do not enter home
  + Always have your phone on you
  + Always have your ID with you
  + Keep valuables at home or in trunk of car
  + Wear comfortable clothing
* *Describe cultural considerations in working with diverse families.* 
  + *How do professionals show appropriate sensitivity and respect for families they are working with who may differ from themselves? These differences may include gender, sexual orientation, cultural, education, ethnicity, life style, and social class differences.*
    - To be respectful families and their diverse cultures professionals in the filed should get semi-acquainted with their client’s culture before entering the home. If language is a barrier the agency should assign appropriate case managers who speaks the language to a particular family or maybe hire an interpreter. In addition, professionals should ask clients before entering the home if there are any special customs they should abide by (i.e., taking off shoes before entering house).
* *In your Leadership Cumulative Paper your group will need to explain how your home visiting program addresses the needs of your family.* 
  + *For this assignment describe the rationale or empirical evidence of the effectiveness of home visiting programs for at-risk families (be sure to include appropriate APA citations).* 
    - Home visiting helps to change the lives of at-risk families by providing physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral health to benefit young children and their caregivers.
* *In your Leadership Cumulative Paper your group will need to describe assessments you will use in working with your family. (Part 5).* 
  + *Using materials from this training, describe an initial assessment you might conduct with your Fragile Family and how information gained from that assessment might guide your program components (for the parent(s) and/or child(ren).*
    - An assessment I might conduct with my fragile family is whether there is domestic violence in the home and whether neglect of the child is present.
  + *What referral services might you need to provide for your family (i.e., services that would be outside the scope of your program)?*
    - Referral services: medical providers for family
    - Childcare resources for family
    - Employment/ Education option for parents