



Safety Tips for Lend Trainees On Family Visits

Although the Parent Coordinator has made a home visit to your mentoring family, emergencies can arise in the best of neighborhoods, under what seem to be the safest conditions. Although we do not anticipate any problems during your family visits, you should still be prepared for unexpected situations. Most of the following tips reflect common sense precautions.

Personal Safety:

1. Carry a cell phone and pager at all times. Make sure the cell phone is pre-programmed with important numbers (i.e. 911, numbers for Parent Coordinator and Training Director, listed below). Do not leave it in your car. Keep it on your person.
2. Call ahead to confirm your visit with your mentoring family.
3. If you arrive at your destination and there is a large group of people standing where you need to go and you feel uncomfortable, call the family and see if they can meet you by your car and walk with you to the location.
4. If a situation appears strange or dangerous, leave.
5. If you're approached by an individual asking for your jewelry or other possessions, give it to them. You are more important than your possessions.
6. If you feel unsafe at any time during a family visit, leave immediately and call 911.
7. If something arises that you are unsure about while on a family visit, call the Parent Coordinator, Sheryl Feuer, at 636-4626 (work), 522-7155 (home), or 513-508-9586 (cell phone), or the Training Director, Roz Parrish, at 513-477-5943 (cell phone).

Car Safety:

1. Familiarize yourself with the geographic areas of your meeting locations for your family visits, including any other neighborhoods through which you will be traveling to and from the visits.
2. Keep valuables out of sight. Lock them in the trunk before leaving for your family visits. If possible, don't carry your purse, but always have ID with you.
3. Prepare for the weather by making sure your car is properly maintained.

4. Stock your car with the proper emergency supplies, such as a blanket, flashlight, emergency triangle, etc.
5. It's a good idea to keep your gas tank at least half full. If you need to stop for gas on your way to or from a family visit, plan ahead and go to a station in a good area.
6. Check near, under and inside your car before entering it.
7. Keep your doors locked and windows closed while traveling and park in a well-lit area and as close to your meeting location as possible.
8. Plan your route of travel and share it with your faculty advisor. Let him/her know when and where you will be meeting your mentoring family and how long you expect the visit will take.
9. It is a good idea to keep your car and house keys separate so if one or the other is lost or taken, you have not lost all of them.
10. Leave distance between you and the car in front of you when approaching an intersection. This will allow you to pull around and continue driving in the case of an attempted car jacking.
11. If a car bumps you from behind, stay in the car and motion for the other driver to follow you to a safe area. Exchange information in the car. It is recommended that you *not* leave your vehicle.