



Collaborating with Home Visiting Programs: A Tip Sheet for Infant-Toddler Court Professionals



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

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WHAT IS HOME VISITING?

Home visiting is a service delivery strategy that matches pregnant people, parents and caregivers of infants and very young children with a designated support person—typically a trained nurse, social worker or early childhood specialist—who guides them through the early stages of raising a family.¹ Home visiting views child and family development from a holistic, two-generation approach perspective that encompasses:

- Child health and well-being
- Child development and school readiness
- Positive parent–child relationships
- Parent health and well-being
- Family economic self-sufficiency
- Family functioning

For families facing stressors such as unemployment or health concerns, home visiting services can provide a stable source of support. Home visitors get to know each family over time and tailor services to meet their needs.²

WHAT DOES A HOME VISITING PROGRAM DO?

Home visitors and families develop strong relationships and trust through meeting regularly and addressing families' needs by:

- Supporting healthy pregnancy/postpartum and maternal health
- Providing information on topics such as breastfeeding, safe sleep, and nutrition
- Encouraging early language development and early learning at home
- Teaching and supporting positive parenting strategies to build strong parent-child relationships, including paying attention to and responding to young children's needs, reading to them, and playing with them
- Working with caregivers to set goals for the future, continue education, and find employment and child care solutions
- Connecting families to other services and resources in their community³

WHY COLLABORATE WITH A HOME VISITING PROGRAM?

Partnerships with home visiting programs are important because, in many cases, they share the same families and goals for those families as the Infant-Toddler Court Team (ITCT). They bring knowledge and experience of community services and resources that meet early childhood development and family needs.

Collaboration between ITCTs and home visiting programs sets the stage for the two programs to work together seamlessly in supporting the needs of children and their parents. Such partnerships can:

- Expand access to resources and supports for families with very young children
- Support mutual goals across ITCTs and home visiting programs with very young children, including:
 - Providing caregivers with knowledge and training to reduce the risk of unintended injuries
 - Offering caregivers timely information about child development and the importance of early childhood in establishing the building blocks for life
 - Promoting safe, stable, and nurturing early childhood relationships
 - Making referrals and coordinating services for children and caregivers, including job training and education programs, early care and education services and— if needed—mental health and domestic violence resources⁴
- Address barriers to referrals to home visiting services

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

Infant-toddler court professionals effectively partner with families involved in home visiting programs by:

1. Reaching out to the [National Resource Center for the Infant-Toddler Court Program](#) for tips and strategies for making connections with local home visiting programs.
2. Setting up meetings with potential home visiting partners.
 - Learn about the various home visiting models offered in the local community.
 - Share the ITCT approach to show the alignment of goals and outcomes.
 - Refer eligible families to home visiting partners. Building connections encourages a “warm” transfer when making referrals. This ensures that families are more likely to enroll in a home visiting program and get the additional support that such a program can offer.
3. Including home visitors in Family Team Meetings.
 - Encourage home visitors to provide insight into the family’s strengths and areas of focus as well as how the family’s home visiting goals align with those of the case plan.
4. Inviting home visitors to join the Active Community Team.
 - Provide a space to build and strengthen connections with other community partners for both the ITCT and the home visiting program.
 - Offer an opportunity to think about new ways to deliver family centered services.
 - Discuss ways to lessen duplicated services, freeing up valuable support for other families.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOME VISITING PROGRAMS, CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES AND RESOURCES:

[National Home Visiting Resource Center](#)

- [Home Visiting Primer](#)
- [2022 Home Visiting Yearbook](#)
- [Home Visiting Research and Evaluation](#)
- [Evidence-based Home Visiting Models](#)
- [Tribal Home Visiting Program](#)

[Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting \(MIECHV\) Program](#)

- [Home Visiting State Fact Sheets](#)

SOURCES/ENDNOTES

¹ <https://nhvrc.org/what-is-home-visiting/>

² https://nhvrc.org/legacy_yearbook/home-visiting-primer/ Pg 2

³ MIECHV website: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/programs/home-visiting/maternal-infant-early-childhood-home-visiting-miechv-program>

⁴ <https://nhvrc.org/about-home-visiting/why-home-visiting/>

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