



# LEARNINGbyte

## Professional Responsibilities and Considerations

### Safety During Early Intervention Visits: A Vignette



#### PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to support learners as they consider tips and strategies to promote personal safety during early intervention visits.



#### RESOURCES NEEDED

- Online Module: Safety
- Handout - *Safety During Early Intervention Visits: A Vignette*



#### SPECIFIC STEPS

1. Before the meeting, tell participants that you will be discussing home visiting safety. Encourage participants to complete the Safety Module (available at [www.veipd.org/elearn](http://www.veipd.org/elearn)) prior to the meeting. The module takes approximately 20" to complete.
2. Begin by asking participants to read the handout, *Safety During Early Intervention Visits: A Vignette*. Participants can work in pairs, small groups, or full group to identify:
  - Five things the early intervention provider did well
  - Four safety red flags
  - Three things the provider could do differently next time.
3. Debrief as a large group asking if participants have ever been in a similar situation as the provider in the vignette. Discuss what they did or what they learned from that situation.
4. If time permits, invite participants to share situations where they were concerned with their personal safety during an EI visit. Encourage the group to brainstorm ideas to support their colleagues in using good safety practices.



#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

##### Online Module: Safety

- Visit the [VA Early Intervention eLearning Center](http://VA Early Intervention eLearning Center) site to access these modules under the Ongoing Professional Development list.

Online Module: [Personal Safety for Home Visitors](#) (Early Impact VA)

## Safety During Early Intervention Visits: A Vignette

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Santana is an early intervention provider in an urban area of the state. Many of her visits take place in a community where crime is prevalent, particularly involving gang and domestic violence. There is also high incidence of drug manufacturing and usage.

Prior to leaving for her visit, Santana checks that her schedule is available to her supervisor. She also stops by a co-worker's office and tells her where she will be going and how long the visit is supposed to last. She recalls that she is a bit low on gas but figures that it's just a short drive and she'll be late if she stops to fill up now. Santana arrives for her visit with Amelia and her grandmother. It is the last Friday of the month and the apartment complex is teeming with people hanging around the sidewalk. Santana decides to go around the block to give Amelia's grandmother a quick call (Boy, she's glad her cell phone is charged!) to remind her of their scheduled appointment. She explains that she was a little apprehensive with so many people milling around near the stairwell she would have to use to reach the apartment. Amelia's grandmother agrees to meet Santana at the top of the stairwell. Santana goes back around the block and squeezes pretty tightly into a parking space. She quickly locks her purse in the trunk and grabs her computer bag to head toward the apartment. She walks with her keys in her hand and her computer bag on her shoulder, head held up, with her eyes scanning her surroundings. As promised, Mrs. Jackson is waiting with Amelia at the top of the stairs. She calls down to the guys hanging around to let Santana through. Santana quickly goes up the steps and notices that there is an odor of marijuana smoke outside the door. Mrs. Jackson and Santana head into the apartment.

### Identify five things that Santana did well

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Identify three safety red flags

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

As Santana reflects on what she could do differently for her next visit, identify at least three safety strategies.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# Safety During Early Intervention Visits: A Vignette

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## ANSWER KEY

### Identify (at least) five things that Santana did well:

1. Her schedule is updated and available to her supervisor
2. Informed a co-worker where she was going and how long she expected to be out
3. Trusts her instincts when she is apprehensive about the people milling around
4. Cell phone is charged
5. Calls Mrs. Jackson to remind her of the appointment
6. Plans for Mrs. Jackson to meet her on the stairwell
7. Keeps keys in her hand, appears confident, scanning environment

### Identify (at least) three safety red flags:

1. Many people milling around the stairwell
2. It's the last Friday of the month; often payday
3. Low on gas
4. Tight parking space may cause her to be boxed in
5. Marijuana smoke in hallway; in most instances this is an illegal substance

### As Santana reflects on what she could do differently for her next visit, identify at least three safety strategies:

1. Schedule her visit on different day of the month since payday can often bring out more people who have cash 'on hand' for possible 'illegal purchases' or may be interested in cash that others may have on their persons.
2. Schedule the appointment as a joint visit with a colleague
3. Store purse/valuables in trunk BEFORE arriving at visit
4. Ask Mrs. Jackson about other parking options, if possible
5. Discuss places that Mrs. Jackson and Amelia go during the day to consider possible community visit
6. Keep gas tank full and car well-maintained.