

# Home Visits

Once you've determined to do home visits, you'll want to make sure you follow your church's policies. Familiarize yourself with your church's child protection policies and always discuss your home visit plans with your Awana Ministry Director. Make sure that you wear your Awana® uniform to identify who you are. Be sure that it is neat and clean.

You certainly want to pray. It is a good idea to leave an itinerary with someone in case of an emergency. Get specific directions and make sure families know you are coming.

## The Visit

You are at the front door of Billy's house, and his parents have welcomed you and invited you and your partner in. What now?

- Identify yourself.
- Assure the parents that you will only take a few moments of their time.
- Leave your coat on; it silently tells them that you won't be staying long.
- One of you should do most of the talking.
- If a child or children need some special attention, one of you could occupy the kids, minimizing interruptions.
- Show parents their child's handbook and point out what their child is learning.

It is important to remember that your primary task during this visit is to build relationships, not necessarily to evangelize the

family; however, if the conversation leads to spiritual things, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you and share the Gospel.

As you visit, remember:

- Visit prayerfully and tactfully.
- Don't be controversial.
- Don't destroy the effectiveness of your visit with an unwise comment.
- Don't wear out your welcome.

After the visit, you will want to record whom you visited, when you visited and any pertinent follow-up information that may be needed. If the home has a Cubbie, a Sparkie and a child in T&T™, time the visit so that three different sets of leaders don't visit. Communicate the results of your visit with the club and church leadership.

## Follow-up

Modern technology can provide directors and leaders with excellent ways to keep in touch with kids and their families. You may send e-mail messages or reminders, or your church may even have a website to communicate with church families and visitors. However, because of concerns with child predators who try to reach children through e-mail, the Internet and text messaging, *you must check with your commander* and get permission from the parents, preferably in writing, before you communicate with kids this way. Be sure to follow your church's policies with regard to contact outside the church.