INTRODUCTION
Goals, and the process of developing goals in partnership with the family:
• provides a common agenda/understanding of the purpose of home visits;
• help the home visitor better understand the values and beliefs of the family; and
• provide continuity from one visit to the next.

ORIENTING FAMILIES
• Part of the process of orienting families to home visiting includes discussion around the use of goals to help guide visits.
• Goals are typically developed by the 5th visit.
• Goals are individualized for each family. When partnering with families to develop goals, the following should be taken into account:
  • what the family is most interested in;
  • what the home visitor has learned through conversations with the family, the results of screens and tools, any checklists programs use (that may or may not be tied to a curriculum), observation of parent-child interactions; and
  • the purpose of the NM Home Visiting Program.
• Because the chief focus of NM CYFD Home Visiting is the parent-child relationship, at least one goal should be parent-child centered. An example of a parent-child centered goal is learning to follow a child’s interest. An example of a parent-centered goal that does not necessarily focus on the parent-child relationship, is getting a GED.
• Typically, 3 to 4 goals at a time seems to be a manageable amount, though the number of active goals at any one time is determined by discussion between the family & home visitor.
• Goals that can be accomplished within a few months allow for frequent celebration of a family/child’s accomplishments.

DOCUMENTATION (The following needs to be documented in the NM HV Database in the “Goals” section)
• The date a goal is developed with the family.
• The goal.
• Each goal is tied to one of the 18 outcome areas (which are expanded from the 5 long-term outcomes of the NM CYFD Home Visiting Program).
• The date a goal is closed.
• The disposition when the goal is closed.
• Strategies and activities can also be recorded in the goals section of the Database.
• Ongoing progress or barriers to accomplishing goals, are documented in the progress notes. A guidance document on progress notes will be will follow.