

CWS2031W Sexual Abuse Investigations

Transfer-of-Learning (TOL) Activity 2

IMPORTANT: Please coordinate this activity with your supervisor.

Activity 1: Read “Victim Forensic Interview” – Carley Hammett’s CAC Interview on the Hammett Documentation document

Activity 2: Observe one full forensic interview with a child alleged to have been sexually abused.

Activity 3: Complete a peer review of the interview, using the checklist on the next page.

Arrange your observation using this order of preference (observation scenarios):

1. Observe a forensic interview with a child alleged to have been sexually abused, at a Child Advocacy Center (you must check with your local CAC first for their observation guidelines); or
2. Observe an investigative interview of a child alleged to have been sexually abused, conducted by a coworker who is a seasoned CPS investigator; or
3. Watch the video of a previous forensic/investigative interview with a child alleged to have been sexually abused; your supervisor or senior worker can help you locate a video recording; or
4. Listen to the audio of a previous investigative interview with a child alleged to have been sexually abused; your supervisor or senior worker can help you locate an audio recording.

You will have two weeks to complete the observation and peer review checklist.

- Make every attempt to observe a full forensic interview conducted at a CAC (this is the ideal observation scenario).
- Choose the next preferred observation scenario in case of the following circumstances:
 - There is no CAC in your locality
 - CAC guidelines or current circumstances prohibit your observation
 - No interview will be conducted at the CAC within the two-week period

Be prepared to discuss your observation and peer review experience at the beginning of our next session.

Interview Peer Review Worksheet

Name of Interviewer: _____

Location of Interview: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Age of Child: _____

Interview protocol used: _____

Rapport Building	Yes	No	N/A	Observation/Notes
Interviewer introduced self and explained job in non-technical words				
Interviewer helped child become familiar with surroundings of interview and told the purpose of the talk				
Interviewer introduced recording equipment in child-friendly manner				
Interviewer established child's comfort, communication, and competence				
Interviewer established child's developmental ability				
Interviewer demonstrated cultural humility and was culturally sensitive				
Interviewer established interview guidelines or instructions				__ Don't guess __ Don't know __ Don't remember __ Correct me __ Tell me if you don't understand Other:
Interviewer prompted Practice Narrative				Event/topic used:
Interviewer prompted Truth discussion				

Interviewer established names child uses for body parts				
Substantive Phase	Yes	No	N/A	Observation/Notes
Interviewer introduced topic of concern in non-suggestive manner				__ "Tell me the reason I came to talk with you today/you came to talk with me today." __ "I heard you saw ____ (counselor, police officer, doctor, etc). Tell me everything you talked about." __ Touch inquiry (ChildFirst protocol) __ Like/Don't like
Interviewer encouraged child's narrative through open-ended narrative prompts				
Interviewer used open-ended detail seeking questions (what, who, where, how, when)				
Interviewer used multiple choice question with open third option only when necessary and after attempted narrative prompt and open-ended questions				
Interviewer limited or avoided the use of yes/no questions				
Interviewer avoided the use of leading or suggestive questions				
Interviewer asked the most open-ended follow-up questions for clarification and details				
Interviewer asked, "what happened next?" and "then what happened?" and "tell me more."				
Interviewer asked sensory questions				
Interviewer used tools				__ Anatomical drawings __ Free drawing __ Anatomical dolls __ Other: _____

Interviewer used effective timing				__ Use of silence __ Pace is child-appropriate __ Length is child-appropriate __ Does not interrupt child __ Effectively redirects when necessary
Interviewer asked if anything else important to know				
Closure Phase	Yes	No	N/A	Observation/Notes
Interviewer checked with observers before closing interview				
Interviewer sought and answered child's questions				
Interviewer talked with child about personal safety (ex. Helping Hand)				
Interviewer talked about next steps (i.e. medical exam)				
Interviewer reverted to neutral topic before close of interview				
Interviewer thanked child for participating in interview				
Overall	Yes	No	N/A	Observation/Notes
Interviewer addressed child by name				
Interviewer's demeanor was friendly and warm				
Interviewer maintained appropriate eye contact with child				
Interviewer demonstrated respect and empathy				

Additional notes, observations, questions: