Multi-Session Interviews

Language Confusion

- Repeat interviews
- Follow-up interviews
- Subsequent interviews
- Multiple session interviews
- Structured multiple session interviews

Benefits of Multiple Interviews

- Overview
- Support more routine use of multiple interviews
- Continues confusion of language
  
  
Repeat/Subsequent Interviews

- Multiple reasons
  - Time needed for more detail
  - New information uncovered in investigation
  - Child becomes distressed
  - Need for greater rapport
  - No disclosure → ready to talk
  - Need additional support from specialist

Waterhouse et al. (2016)

Recommendations

- Implementation of good interview practices
- Non-duplicative
- Close together
- Single interviewer
- Clearly documented
- Avoidance of suggestive questioning &/or coercion
- High quality training & supervision / peer review

Why Do More than One Interview?

• Cognitive / memory processes
• Reminiscence
• Organization of narrative
• Consolidation of memory
• Social/emotional needs
• Greater rapport & trust
• Management of traumatic material
• Offer some control over sharing of difficult material

Reluctance in Child Witnesses


Reluctance in Child Witnesses


Telling versus not-telling

Decision to Tell

- Active withholding
  - Having a sense of control
  - Protecting 'myself' or others
- Pressure cooker effect
  - Opportunity to tell
  - Choosing a confidant
- Confiding
  - "Telling the secret"
  - "Testing the waters"

Reasons for Reluctance

- Lack of language to describe
- Shame /embarrassment / guilt
- Fear of implications of disclosure
- Stigma and powerlessness
- Manipulation by the perpetrator or others
- Complex relationship with perpetrator → mixed emotions and confusion
Reluctance May Be Predicted

- Child considerations
- Offense considerations
- Outcry or non-outcry
- Relationship to alleged offender
- Caregiver response
- System response

Reluctance in Different Places in FI

- Prior to the FI
- Transition
- Providing details
- Revealing different acts
- Clarification
- Minimization

Enter with a plan......
Multiple Session Interview Structure

Models for multiple session interviews
- NCAC
- Texas model
- Norwegian Sequential Interview for Preschoolers
- Cornerhouse
- RADAR

FI & EFI

- **Stage 1**
  - Early Engagement
  - Interview Instructions
  - Narrative Practice
- **Stage 2**
  - Transition
  - Abuse Questioning
  - Follow-up Questions
  - Closure
- **Foundational Sessions**
  - 1 or 2 sessions
- **Allegation Focused Sessions**
  - 1 or 2 sessions

Foundational Sessions

**Session 1**
- Engagement
- Interview instructions
- Narrative practice
- Note development
- Safe topics
  - Encourage description
  - Set pace & tone

**Session 2**
- Continue goals of Session 1
- Family
- School
- Feelings
- Other relevant topics
Transition

Gathering Details

Barrier Assessment

• “How are you feeling about talking with me so far?”
• “Do you have any worries or concerns about talking to me?”
• “Do you think that somebody else is worried about us talking?”
• “What can I do to help you feel more comfortable?”
• “If you have any worries later, please let me know.”

Indirect

• Incremental focus topics

Direct

• Introduction of information
• Introduction of evidence
• Body safety conversation
Reluctance May Continue

- Skeletal description
- Low voice
- Minimizing
- Lack of context
- Scripted language
- Justifying/explaining

Balancing Act

- Clarification in child's words
- Elicit as much info as possible without being suggestive
- Best info comes from child's narratives
- Child is only one source of information

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