

2015

The Child Centered Approach To Investigative Child Forensic Interviewing

*A protocol based on the evidenced based core knowledge competencies
identified as critical to effective child forensic interviewing*

Presented by

The National Association of Certified Child
Forensic Interviewers (NACCFI)



The rationale for a child centered approach to forensic interviewing is anchored on the premise that a child's ability, willingness and competency to participate in the interview is greatly enhanced when the interview strategy is structured based on the child's emotional, cognitive and developmental abilities. At the center of the child centered approach is the need for close collaboration between members of a multi-disciplinary investigative team and trusted members of the child's family if applicable

Introduction

Child maltreatment is both a public safety concern and in many cases a criminal matter. Effectively questioning a child suspected of being maltreated or witnessing a crime is perhaps the most critical task facing a first responder. Safety planning, risk assessment and collecting physical and testimonial evidence are only a few of the critical tasks associated with an effective first response. For this reason, it is critical that all first responders be properly trained in the core knowledge competencies associated with effectively interviewing child victims or child witnesses. Properly trained first responders provide children and the general public reasonable assurances of sensitivity objectivity and credibility when responding to the scene of a crime.

Course Description

This 80 hour evidenced base certificate training course is designed to teach the basic entry level core knowledge competencies needed to conduct an effective child forensic interview. The course includes 40 hours of online self e-learning followed by 20 hours of onsite classroom knowledge competency instruction and 20 hours of onsite peer review practice practicum. Learners cannot attend the onsite training until they have completed the online training and passed the pre onsite competency exam. The empirical evidence from two practice job analysis was used in the construct of this 80 hour curriculum. (See examination blueprint attached) The course covers all of the core knowledge competencies identified as critical to effective practice by over 1500 currently practicing child forensic interviewers who participated in two separate practice job analysis. All course participants are required to pass a post online course exam prior to taking the onsite course then pass an end of course exam in order to successfully complete this course of training.

Learning Objectives

- ✚ Participants learn the foundational core knowledge competencies associated with effective child forensic interviewing.
- ✚ Participants learn the effective use of child centered question typology.
- ✚ Participants learn to identify and address child developmental and cognitive challenges.
- ✚ Participants learn cultural, social and rapport building skills.
- ✚ Participants learn to identify and respond to common barriers associated with interviewing children.
- ✚ Participants learn how to corroborate testimonial evidence during a criminal investigation.
- ✚ Course participants learn how to objectively evaluate alternative hypothesis to an allegation of abuse.
- ✚ Course Participants learn how to effectively defend their interviews in court
- ✚ Course participant actively practice their interviewing skills during a videotaped peer review practicum.

Target Audience

- ✚ Child Protective Services (CPS), Law Enforcement and other Child Protection Services Professionals.



Class: Artesia NM Municipal Court 11/2/2014

The Child Centered Approach Curriculum

The rationale for a child centered approach to forensic interviewing is anchored on the premise that a child's willingness and competency to participate in the forensic interview is greatly enhanced when the interview strategy is structured based on the child's cognitive and developmental abilities. At the center of the child centered approach is the need for pre interview collaboration between the interviewer and members of a multi-disciplinary investigative team and trusted members of the child's family when and if applicable. Interviewers are encouraged to develop a child centered interview strategy utilizing a variety of evidenced based tools, tasks and functions only when applicable.

40 Hour Course Outline

DAY I: (7 hours) Core Knowledge Competencies

- + Introduction & Course Description
- + History of Child Forensic Interviewing
- + Dynamics of Child Maltreatment
- + The Process of Disclosure
- + Child Developmental Considerations
- + Interview Barriers

DAY 2: (7 hours) Core Tasks & Functions

- + The Child Centered Investigative Interview Strategy
- + Child Centered Question Typology
- + Interview Aides / Dolls & Diagrams

Day 3: (6 hours) Core Tasks & Functions

- + Documenting Testimonial Evidence
- + Testifying Effectively in Court
- + Rules of Criminal Evidence Collection

Day 4 & 5 (20 hours) Videotaped Peer Review Practicums

End of Course EXAM & Evaluations

The Core Knowledge Competencies, Task & Functions

Knowledge Content Areas:	Weight	Skill Level	%
01: Dynamics of Child Maltreatment:			
KSA 01: Dynamics of Intra Familial Child Sexual Abuse	0.03876	Level: I	14
KSA 25: Interview Barriers & Interventions	0.03777	Level: II	
KSA 03: Child Prostitution & Human Trafficking	0.00551	Level: I	
KSA 04: Pornography and Internet Exploitation	0.00551	Level: I	
02: Child Developmental Theory			30
KSA 10: Memory and Suggestibility	0.04382	Level: II	
KSA 08: Comprehension & Recall	0.09338	Level: I	
KSA 09: Language and Articulation	0.06357	Level: I	
KSA 02: Developmental Disabilities	0.05208	Level: II	
KSA 17: Cultural Diversity and Sensitivity	0.04698	Level: I	
03: Forensic Interview Structures, Protocols & Aids			30
KSA 05: Interview Protocols	0.14583	Level: I	
KSA 24: Interview Structures	0.04960	Level: I	
KSA 23: Interview Aids and Props	0.02583	Level: II	
KSA 11: Question Typology	0.10323	Level: I	
04: Criminal Child Abuse Investigations Procedures			09
KSA 20: The Multidisciplinary Team Approach:	0.08372	Level: I	
KSA 12: Rules of Crime Scene Evidence	0.02708	Level: I	
KSA 18: Corroborating Evidence	0.00753	Level: II	
KSA 19: Alternative Hypothesis	0.00630	Level: II	
05: Court Procedures & Case Law			17
KSA 21: Court Testimony Case Law	0.05783	Level: I	
KSA 16: Child Maltreatment Case Law	0.01577	Level: I	
KSA 13: Court Testimony Procedures	0.01733	Level: II	
KSA 07: Child Victim Advocacy	0.01368	Level: I	
KSA 22: Ethical Considerations	0.05717	Level: II	