

2017

# The Child Centered Approach To Investigative Forensic Interviewing

*A Certificate Training Course  
Leading to National Certification*

*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 needs of an alleged child abuse victim.

## **Course Description**

This 40 hour evidenced base online certificate training course is designed to teach the basic entry level core knowledge competencies associated with effective child forensic interviewing. The certification requirements include the 40 hour of online self-learning course followed by 16 hours of live peer review practice practicum. Learners who wish to be credential in the field of child forensic interviewing must participate in a minimum of 32 hours of competency training and 16 hours of peer review practicum. The empirical evidence from two practice job analysis was used in the construct of this 56 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. Learners cannot attend the peer review practicum until they have completed the 40 hour online training course and passed the knowledge competency exam.

## **Course 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.
- ✚ Participants learn how to objectively evaluate alternative hypothesis to an allegation of abuse.
- ✚ Participants learn how to effectively defend their interviews in court
- ✚ Participant actively practices their interviewing skills during a live peer review practicum.

## **Target Audience**

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



## **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.

Class: Artesia NM Municipal Court 11/2/2014

## **16 Hour Peer reviewed Practicums**

Certified trainers are available to travel and conduct the complete class or the peer reviewed practicums with groups of learners who have completed the online course and are ready to complete the practicum. The practicum is necessary to achieve the Certified Child Forensic Interviewer (CCFI) credential. Learners can also travel to Fredericksburg VA, and participate in two day peer review practicum. This practicum is designed to develop the skills necessary to conduct a safe and effective interview. Once an applicant completes the 40 hour online course, competency exam and the two day practicum, they will earn the CCFI Credential.

## **Schedule for the Peer Reviewed Practicums in Fredericksburg, VA**

4701 Spotsylvania Parkway Suite 101  
Fredericksburg VA, 22407  
Phone: 540-891-7891  
Fax: 540-891-2031

## **Dates: Saturday & Sundays**

**February 18 & 19 2017**

**May 19 & 20 2017**

**August 19 & 20 2017**

**November 18 & 19 2017**

**To register to attend the 16 hour peer review practicum [[CLICK HERE](#)]**

## The Core Knowledge Competencies, Task & Functions

Knowledge Content Areas:	Weight	Skill Level	
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**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 04: Pornography and Internet Exploitation	0.00551	Level: I	

**02: Child Developmental Theory**

KSA 10: Memory and Suggestibility	0.04382	Level: II	30
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**

KSA 05: Interview Protocols	0.14583	Level: I	30
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**

KSA 20: The Multidisciplinary Team Approach	0.08372	Level: I	17
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**

KSA 13: Court Testimony Procedures	0.01733	Level: II	09
KSA 22: Ethical Considerations	0.05717	Level: II	