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SUMMARY:
The purpose of this study is to determine if a revision to the NICHD Forensic Interviewing Protocol which seeks to enhance rapport-building with children increases their cooperation and sharing of forensically relevant details.

Subjects/Design:
- Seven experienced forensic interviewers from Israel
- Interviews conducted:
  - Standard Protocol (SP) – 613
  - Revised Protocol (RP) - 811
- Before using the Revised Protocol, interviewers received two days of training; and also received monthly expert supervision from authors
- 200 interviews were selected from the 1,424 forensic interviews conducted (100 SP & 100 RP)
  - Children made allegations
  - Matched across groups for age and gender, type of abuse, and relationship between victim and offender
- Revised Protocol included changes to Rapport Building (RB)
  - Preceded (rather than followed) explanation of the ground rules and expectations
  - Inviting free-recall narratives about recent experience(s)
  - Prompting children to provide more details about personally-meaningful topics using open-ended invitations
  - Express interest in the child’s experiences
  - To use children’s names
  - To echo children’s feelings
  - To acknowledge feelings
  - To explore feelings the child relates
Findings:
2. Using the Revised Protocol was associated with:
   1. Increased support in the rapport-building and transitional phases of FI
   2. Decreased child reluctance in the rapport-building and substantive phases of the FI
3. Allegations of abuse were more likely to be obtained in Revised Protocol Interviews using recall prompts and less likely to be obtained using recognition prompts than in Standard Protocol Interviews – THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT AS RECALL ELICITS MANY MORE DETAILS AND IS MORE ROBUST THAN RECOGNITION


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Research to Practice Summaries was supported by Grant No. 2012-CI-FX-K006 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of views or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.