

ARTICLE:

Hershkowitz, I., Lamb, M. E., Katz, C., & Malloy, L. C. (2013). Does enhanced rapport-building alter the dynamics of investigative interviews with suspected victims of intra-familial abuse? *Journal of Police Criminal Psychology*, DOI 10.1007/s11896-013-9136-8

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:

1. Children interviewed using the Revised Protocol showed less reluctance than children interviewed using the Standard Protocol
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

National Children's Advocacy Center (2014). Does enhanced rapport-building alter the dynamics of investigative interviews with suspected victims of intra-familial abuse? Research to Practice Summary. Huntsville, AL: Author.

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