ARTICLE:

SUMMARY:
Purpose:
- to assess whether children would reveal information about their choice of disclosure recipients and their motivation to disclose
- to determine how much of the information about disclosure was included in the narratives elicited from children using open-ended questions

Subjects/Design:
204 children
- 5-9 years old – 130
- 10-13 years old – 74
- Approximately 75% female and 25% male

The transcripts of the first recorded forensic interview were used to identify every instance where a child referenced a disclosure recipient or reasons for disclosure, and classified utterances in one of three categories:
- Statements about disclosure recipient preferences ("I wanted to tell my mom") or non-preferences ("I did not want to tell my teacher")
- Statements concerning expectations of belief or disbelief
- Statements concerning motivations for disclosure

Number of incidents:
- Single incident – 45%
- Multiple incidents – 55%

Children were asked to identify the first person they ever told and to elaborate ("Tell me everything about how _____ found out")

Findings:
1. 164 children (80.4%) mentioned one or more disclosure recipients
   a. One disclosure recipient – 63
   b. Two disclosure recipients - 53
2. 120 children (58.8%) spontaneously provided information about at least one disclosure recipient
3. Most common disclosure recipients:
   a. Mothers – 69%
   b. Peers – 57%

4. Younger children more likely to disclose to mothers
5. 10-13 year old children more likely than younger children to mention peers and teachers
6. Only 15 children mentioned expectations about belief
   a. 12 of these children expected disbelief
7. There were no differences between the types of information that were interviewer elicited as opposed to spontaneously provided by children


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