



INTERVIEWER RESPONSES, PROMPTS, AND QUESTION TYPES DEFINITIONS

Open-Ended Questions (Taps recall memory) - Questions that require the child to provide information using their own words

- **Narrative Invitation**

- Questions that give little direction or prompts that begin a narrative
- Gives child most control over conversation
- Follow-up request for more information
 - *"Tell me more."*
 - *"Tell me everything that happened. Start from the beginning."*

- **Breadth Prompt**

- General continuation of child's narrative
- Prompts to elicit more broadly about what occurred during the event
- Prompts to extend range of a recollection
 - *"What else happened?"*
 - *"Then what happened?"*
 - *"What happened next?"*
 - *"Uncle Seth pulled your pants down, then what happened?"*

- **Focused Narrative Request (Depth Prompt)**

- Questions/prompts that elicit more detail about a part of the event already mentioned by child
- Interviewer selects focus
- Uses child's previously mentioned names, places, actions as cues
 - *"Tell me more about [...]."*
 - *"You said [...]. Tell me about [...]."*
 - *"You said you were taken to the back room. Describe everything you remember about this room."*

Detail (Wh-) Questions – Questions that begin with “wh –“ and may cue for elements not included in child’s narrative account

- **Opened Detailed (Wh-)**
 - Designed to elicit a narrative response
 - *“What kinds of things do you like to do?”*
 - *“What did you see before the police came?”*
- **Specific (Closed Wh-)**
 - Designed to be answered with one word
 - *“What is your brother’s name?”*
 - *“How old are you?”*
 - *“Where in the house did the spanking happen?”*

Option-Posing Questions (Taps recognition memory) – Questions which provide options from which to choose including yes or no or a list of several possibilities

- **Yes/No**
 - Question allows for either a “yes” or “no” response
 - *“Did your mom say something after she hit you?”*
 - *“Was your brother in the room when you were spanked?”*
- **Multiple Choice**
 - Child is provided 2 (or more) options and a third less specific option (if applicable)
 - *“Were you in the living room, the bedroom, or somewhere else?”*
 - *“Did the touching happen one time or more than one time?”*

Questions that Introduce Information – Information is provided in the question and the child is asked to respond

- Introduces an element not mentioned by the child and directs child to recognize abuse or disclosure context
 - *“Did something happen at Papa Tony’s house?”*
- Introduces information from an externally derived source (such as a doctor’s report or original disclosure)
 - *“I heard you told your school resource office that something happened to you after the football game.”*

Suggestive – Questions that introduce too much information to the child and/or seems to imply an answer

- Answer embedded in the question
- Suggests answer to child
- Tag questioning assumes action or behavior
- Pairs action with suspected offender
 - *“You told your teacher that your Dad touched your privates didn’t you?”*
 - *“Did your uncle take pictures of you without your clothes on?”*
 - *“Has your mother been locking you in your room at night?”*

Facilitators – Other responses which demonstrate the interviewer’s interest, checks for clarification, or helps focus the conversation (makes use of child’s previous words and statements)

- **Minimal Encouragers** – Verbal or non-verbal responses acknowledging you are listening to the child
 - Uh-huh, Mmm-hmm, Okay, Mmm, Nodding
- **Reflection** – Repeating back child’s exact words; embed child’s words in question
 - *“Dustin fell.”* (After child said that Dustin fell)
 - *“Tell me everything you saw when Michael made your mommy bleed?”* (After child said “Michael was making momma bleed.”)
- **Paraphrase** – Statement is not word-for-word but selectively focuses on most relevant information
 - *“Your dad scared you. Tell me what your dad did to scare you.”* (After child reported being in the bathtub and his dad doing something scary.)
- **Summarizing** – Reviews what has been reported and interviewer can ask for clarification or affirmation
 - *“You said that you went home after school and when you walked into the kitchen your mom was choking your little brother. Is that right?”*

Information – Providing information to the child (i.e. recording/interview instructions, etc.)