



## Sample Forensic Interview for CACs and Adult Visitors

If an adult visitor, such as a legislator, comes to tour your center, consider showing them a sample forensic interview. A few legislators and staffers have said that watching a mock interview is when it really clicked, and they understood the beauty of our work.

Ideally, you could borrow a child of a staff member and conduct a mock interview about a timely topic, such as This Morning, First Day of School, Last Day of School or Summer Vacation, or anything else.

If no children are available, you can tailor the interview for an adult by asking them about everything they did yesterday, or on their last birthday or holiday. This is not ideal, of course, but they would get the gist.

## Sample Mock Interview Structure

### Introduction & Rapport

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am an interviewer.

My job is to talk to kids about things that are going on.

Since I don't know what's going on with you, I'll be asking you some questions. If you know the answer, tell me.

Explain room

Tell me something about yourself

OR

I'd like to know about things you like to do. What is something that you like to do?

Tell me all about a time that you did X that you remember the most.

Tell me about another time that you did X.

### Instructions

#### *Don't Know Instruction*

If I ask you a question and you don't know the answer, don't guess, just say "I don't know."

So if I ask you "What is my dog's name?" What do you say?

Ok, because you don't know if I have a dog.

But what if I ask, "Do you have a dog?" Ok, because you do know.

If the child guesses dog's name:

No, that isn't my dog's name. You see, you don't know my dog's name. So if you don't know the answer to my question, you can say you don't know. Let's try another one. What's my last name.

#### *Don't Understand Instruction*

If I ask you a question and you don't know what I mean or what I'm saying, you can say "I don't know what you mean." And I will ask it in a different way.

So if I ask you "What is your state of consciousness?" What do you say?

That's because "state of consciousness" is a hard phrase. So instead I would say, "Are you awake or asleep."



### Barrier Assessment

We've been talking about a lot of different things to get to know each other better. How are you feeling so far about talking to me?

Some kids have worries about talking to me. Do you have any worries?

If worries mentioned-explore them with the child. (Provide neutral reassurance)

### Narrative Practice

When I ask you a question today, I want you to tell me everything about it, from the beginning to the end, without leaving anything out. Let's practice by talking about \_\_\_\_\_ [this morning/ first day of school/last day of school] Tell me everything that happened this morning and don't leave anything out. Remember I wasn't there so I don't know what happened.

### Prompts:

Tell me *all about* what happened...

Tell me *all about* the place where it happened.

How come you think that?

Tell me all about what happened next.

Tell me how it started.

Tell me all about the last thing you felt?

Tell me *all about* who...

Tell me *all about* how you know X.

Tell me all about the first thing that happened.

Tell me all about the last thing that happened.

Tell me all about the first thing you felt.

Tell me all about the first thing you saw/smelled/heard?

You did a good job of telling me all about your morning. You helped me to understand what happened even though I wasn't there.

### Closure

What else do you want to tell me today?

What else do you think I should know?

What else do you think I should have asked you?

Do you have any questions for me about what we have talked about today?

If there are things you didn't want to talk about or that you remember later, you can come back and talk to me another time.

Thank you for letting me listen to you.