

General notes about the interview.

- The interview was conducted at a child advocacy center.
- The interviewer and the child were the only two people in the interview room
- The interview was not video/audio-recorded.
- A second investigator listened from another room, was not present in the interview room) and wrote down the conversation.
- The investigator also took notes during the interview.
- The interview started at 4:45pm and lasted approximately 60 minutes.
- The interviewer introduced supplementary media (i.e., drawings) during the interview.
- The child is a 4-year-old female.

Interview transcript.

Interviewer: Hello, my name is Maria and my job is to talk with children to learn more about their experiences. Today is Monday, June 3rd and it is now 4:45pm. I have this notepad that I will use to take notes so I can remember our conversation. Sometimes I forget things and taking notes will allow me to remember what you said and what I said.

Part of my job is to talk to children about things that have happened to them. I meet with lots of children so that they can tell me the truth about things that have happened to them. So, before we begin, I want to make sure that you understand how important it is to tell the truth.

Can you tell me what is true and what is not true? If I say that my shoes are red is that true or not true? [Interviewer's shoes are white and black.]

Child: Not true.

Interviewer: If I say that my shoes are black is that true or not true?

Child: Umm.... true. And green. I like green. Trees are green and they have green leaves too. So do flowers. I saw yellow flowers yesterday when I was walking to school.

Interviewer: That would not be true, because my shoes are really black and white not green. And if I say that I am sitting down now, would that be right or not right? [*The interviewer is sitting down*]

Child: Sitting right down.

Interviewer: It would be true, because you can see I am really sitting down. I see that you understand what telling the truth means.

If I ask a question that you don't understand, just say, "I don't understand". Okay?
And if I don't understand what you say, I'll ask you to explain.
If I ask a question, and you don't know the answer, just tell me, "I don't know". [*Interviewer paused.*]

So, if I ask you, 'what is my dog's name?' what would you say?

Child: My dog's name is Rex. Is your dog's name Rex too?

Interviewer: No, you don't know because you don't know me or my dog. When you don't know the answer, don't guess – say that you don't know.

And if I say things that are wrong, you should tell me. Okay?

So if I said that you are a 2-year-old boy what would you say?

Child: Umm...

Interviewer: What would you say if I made a mistake and called you a 2-year-old boy?

Child: Umm... I'm a big kid and big kids are tough because they don't cry even if you fall and get cuts.

Interviewer: Right, you are a 4-year-old girl. Now, remember, you know you should tell me if I make a mistake or say something that is not right.

So if I said you were standing up, what would you say? [*Child is sitting down*].

Child: No, I'm sitting.

Interviewer: OK.

Interviewer: Now I want to get to know you better. Tell me about things you like to do.

Child: I want to go home.

Interviewer: I really want to know you better. I need you to tell me about the things you like to do.

Child: I'm hungry.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about things you like to do?

Child: No.

Interviewer: Tell me more about things you like to do. Do you read books or watch any shows?

Child: I like to chase my sister. She says I am bad and runs away as fast as she can.

Interviewer: OK. How about school? Can you tell me things you like to do at school?

Child: We had a play and I was the number one elf. That's what my momma said. And people were laughing when I jumped and fell down. I even know the songs.

Interviewer: Can you tell me more about being an elf.

Child: I wore funny shoes and stuff on my face. It was sticky and I wasn't allowed to touch it or it would get in my eyes. That's what they told me. And so I was a good listener and didn't touch it even when it was itchy.

Interviewer: That sounds like a lot of fun.

Interviewer: I want to know more about you and the things you do. A few weeks ago was your school play — right before holiday break. Tell me everything that happened on the day of the play.

Child: Um.. I wore funny shoes. Mr. Mack put that stuff on my face.

Interviewer: Mr. Mack is your gym teacher right?

Child: He makes us play games and run and other stuff.

Interviewer: OK. Think hard about the play and tell me what happened on that day from the time you got up that morning until Mr. Mack put that stuff on your face.

Child: Um.. I fell asleep but I didn't want to sleep. I woke up and ate a Popsicle. A green Popsicle. Green is my favorite one so momma lets me have them. My momma made me wash my face and brush my teeth. I had to put my clothes on. I .. I ..

Interviewer: And then what happened?

Child: Um.. I went to school?

Interviewer: And then what happened?

Child: I came home.

Interviewer: Tell me everything that happened after you went home.

Child: I don't know.

Interviewer: OK. Umm. I want you to know it is very important that you tell me everything you remember about things that have happened to you. You can tell me both good things and bad things. I really want to know about things that happen to you. Tell me everything that happened yesterday, from the time you woke up until you went to bed.

Child: Um.. I woke up and ate a Popsicle. A green Popsicle. Um.. **Interviewer:** Did you really have a Popsicle?

Child: Yes.

Interviewer: really? OK. Then what happened?

Child: I didn't have a popsicle. I ate something else ... a pop.. a pop.. a pop.. **Interviewer:** A pop-tart?

Child: I think -- Yes! I love pink ones.

Interviewer: OK. Can you tell me more about yesterday?

Child: I went to school. I played with Miriam and did work in the kitchen. I fell asleep watching a TV show.

Interviewer: I don't want you to leave anything out. Tell me everything that happened from the time you woke up until you fell asleep watching TV.

Child: My mom got mad at me and my sister.

Interviewer: Can you tell me more about your mom getting mad at you and your sister?

Child: No..

Interviewer: *unclear statement – could not hear from listening booth.*

Child: She was mad because we don't listen and don't ever do our work.

Interviewer: Does mom yell at you or does she hit you when she is mad?

Child: Yes.

Interviewer: OK. Is that everything you can remember about yesterday?

Child: No.

Interviewer: What else do you remember?

Child: Nothing.

Interviewer: OK.

Interviewer: Now that I know you a little better, I want to talk about why you are here today.

Child: Why I am here today.

Interviewer: I understand that something may have happened to you. Tell me everything that happened.

Child: My sister is mean to me.

Interviewer: OK. As I told you, my job is to talk to kids about things that might have happened to them. It is very important that you tell me why you came here. Tell me why you think I came to talk to you today.

Child: I didn't come here today. My aunt Ky brought me here.

Interviewer: Umm.. [*interviewer shuffles papers*]. I heard that you talked to counselor Anna at your house. Tell me what you talked about.

Child: Ms. Anna ... Ms. Anna. Ms. Anna talks to me.

Interviewer: What do you and Ms. Anna talk about?

Child: We talk about the bad things.

Interviewer: You and Ms. Anna talk about bad things. Tell me more about the bad things.

Child: Sometimes we talk about Mr. Mack and his bad birdie. We talk about my momma. My sister and I are bad.

Interviewer: Tell me more about Mr. Mack and his bad birdie.

Child: Um.. I'm.. *child mumbles something that is unclear*

Interviewer: Is Mr. Mack's bad birdie a real bird?

Child: Um...

Interviewer: I heard his birdie is not a real bird. Tell me about it?

Child: Um.. well. Ms. Anna .. *unclear statement*. Ms. Anna showed me pictures and *unclear statement* showed the bad birdie.

Interviewer: Tell me more about what Mr. Mack, does with his bad birdie. Tell me about the the bad things.

Child: Bad things happen everywhere. Ms. Anna ... says I can tell.

Interviewer: You can tell me about what happened. What did you tell Ms. Anna?

Child: About the bird. And Mr. Mack putting sticky stuff on my mouth.

Interviewer: Um.. Tell me about the stuff in your mouth.

Child: I don't remember. Ms. Anna showed me pictures. The birdie touched me.

Interviewer: Hm.. I have some pictures that might help you show me what happened. Do you think they might help?

Child: Maybe. Maybe not.

Interviewer: OK. I have this picture and it looks a lot like you. Do you think so? It has all the same parts as you. Can you tell me all the parts?

Child: [*provides words to label all the body parts on the drawing*].

Interviewer: OK. I also have this picture of an adult. It looks a lot like adults and has all the same parts an adult has. Can you tell me all the parts?

Child: [*provides words to label all the body parts on the drawing. Child does not label genitalia*]

Interviewer: Okay, so you said Mr. Mack's bird touched you. Where did the bird touch you?

Child: points to knee and elbow.

Interviewer: Where else did the bird touch you?

Child: I don't know.

Interviewer: Did you tell Ms. Ana that the bird touched you somewhere else?

Child: Um. Yes. We talked about his birdie thing and how it touches big kids and that is bad.

Interviewer: Can you show me on the picture where the bird touched you?

Child: Here. *Child points to part labeled "butt"*.

Interviewer: so, to clarify, Mr. Mack touched you on your butt with his bird? Did this happen one time or more than one time?

Child: Mmm. 4... 5.. It was a lot that the big bird touched big kids like me.

Interviewer: OK. Now, can you should me where the bird is?

Child: I don't see the bird.

Interviewer: OK. I need you to think really hard about the last time the bird touched you. Tell me everything about the last time this happened.

Child: mmm.. it was a day. At school.

Interviewer: Was it before or after the play where you were the number 1 elf?

Child: Before (*child statements are unclear*) the play. After being number 1 elf.

Interviewer: Can you tell me everything that happened on the day, the last time you remember Mr. Mack's bird touching you?

Child: It was cold outside and I went to school and then we played outside and I had a sandwich for lunch and then we went to gym and I had to go to the bad room with Mr. Mack.

Interviewer: You mentioned the bad room, can you tell me more about that?

Child: You have to go in there when Mr. Mack says you are not being a good listener and he always says I am being a bad listener even when I am being good. I don't like the bad room.

Interviewer: So on Monday Mr. Mack took you into the bad room and what happened?

Child: I told Ms. Ana and she said it is okay to tell.

Interviewer: You can tell me the truth about what happened to you in the bad room.

Child: the bad room is a desk and it is far away from the other desks.

Interviewer: Can you tell me more about that?

Child: Birds should have feathers. Ms. Ana and I look at pictures and find things.

Interviewer: Does anything else happen when you are in the bad room?

Child: No.. I am sad because my friends are so far away. And Mr. Mack too. I'm by myself.

Interviewer: OK. Can you tell me anything else about the last time you were in the bad room?

Child: I went back in line to play the game with the balls and I got out and had to tag someone and it was really fun

Interviewer: I'd like to talk more about the bad room that you mentioned. Do you know where it is?

Child: You have to go up and over. By yourself.

Interviewer: Can you tell me about what the bad room looks like?

Child: Like the other (*child mumbles*) room.

Interviewer: Think about the last time you were in the bad room. Can you tell me everything you see?

Child: The desks and computer.

Interviewer: Can you tell me anything else?

Child: No.

Interviewer: Can you tell me more about the bird? Is it a real bird or something else?

Child: No, I was sad.

Interviewer: Why do you think Mr. Mack showed you the bad bird?

Child: *unclear statement*

Interviewer: How long were you in the room for?

Child: I think few minutes cause it was a long time.

Interviewer: Does Mr. Mack ask any of your classmates to go to the bad room with him?

Child: Sometimes Miriam goes to the bad desk because she is wiggly. Sam and Margo go to there too.

Interviewer: Did you tell any one about the bad room?

Child: I talk to Ms. Ana about the bad things. And my friends. Sometimes we are bad together.

Interviewer: You have told me lots of things today, and I want to thank you for helping me. I am wondering if we can talk a little more about what the bird is before we leave. Is it a real bird?

Child: It isn't like the birds outside. It is something else. It is bad.

Interviewer: Can you tell me what it looks like?

Child: There are no feathers. It's old.

Interviewer: Anything else you can tell me?

Child: Mm... no.

Interviewer: Was the bird big or little?

Child: Birds are little but the bad birdie was big.

Interviewer: Was the birdie hard or soft or something else?

Interviewer: Hmm. I didn't feel it. It touched me.

Interviewer: Do you know if it was hard or soft?

Child: Um.. the bad birdie is.. is.. is... hard and soft.

Interviewer: Can you tell me anything else about the bad birdie?

Child: No.

Interviewer: Can you tell me anything about the birdie touching you? OR the sticky stuff? Did the sticky stuff come from the birdie? Or something else.

Child: The sticky stuff was on my face for the play. Mr. Mack put it on me. Not the birdie.

Interviewer: OK. So Mr. Mack put the sticky stuff [*unclear statement*]. The birdie touched you on your butt but you can't remember where the birdie was? But it wasn't a real birdie.

Child: Yes.

Interviewer: OK. Are there any questions you want to ask me?

Child: No.

Interviewer: OK. Thank you again for talking to me. If you want to talk to me again, you can look at this card and use this phone number to call me. Do you have anything planned today when you leave here?

Child: My Aunt said if I did good I could get ice cream. Did I do good?

Interviewer: You were very helpful today. You did a great job. It's 5:45pm and this interview is now complete.