

Establishing Safety:

Interviewing Survivors of Child Sexual Assault



"A person's a person, no matter how small."

Dr. Seuss, Author

Five Principle truths

- Safety is essential
- Flexibility is critical
- Active listening is key
- No perfect interview
- Trauma impacts memory



Learning Objectives

- Name three trauma responses
- Name at least 4 steps in establishing safety
- Name at least 3 elements of active listening
- Explain the importance of flexibility



Introduction



Trauma Basics



Three Trauma Responses

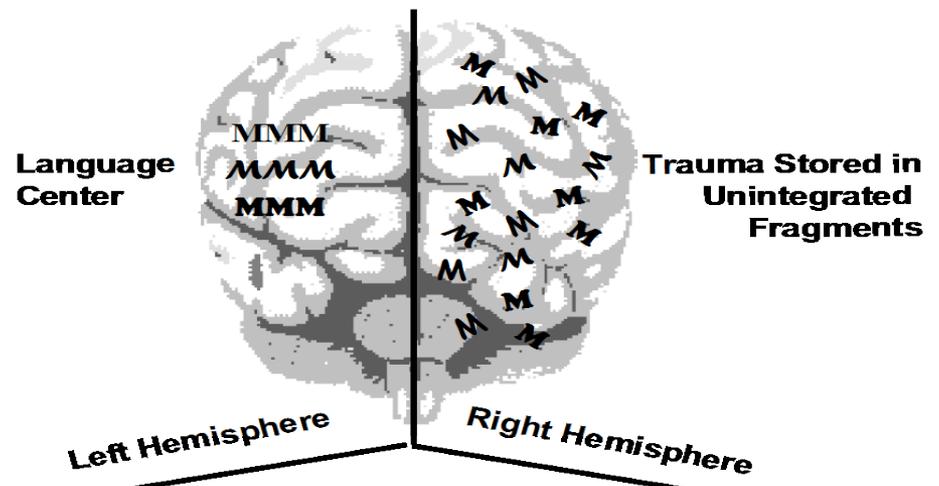


Trauma & Memory



- Memory is stored differently
- Right side storage
- Fragmented
- Out of time
- Non-logical triggers

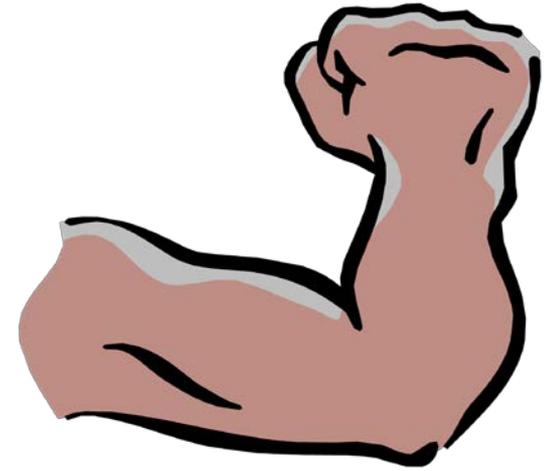
Where the Brain Stores Memory



Trauma Exercise



- Pick a hand and make a fist
- Hold your hand up
- Squeeze your fist tight
- Focus on what your feeling



Introduction to Interviewing

What is the primary purpose of interviewing in cases of child sexual assault?

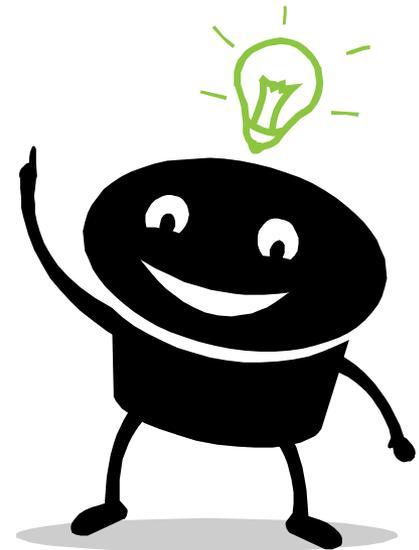


Brainstorm



List the challenges rural agencies face.

- 3 minutes
- Assign Roles (Timer, Facilitator, Recorder, Reporter)
- Everyone participates
- All ideas are included.



Challenges



- **What role do these challenges play in establishing safety for survivors of child sexual assault?**



Preparing for the Interview

- Coordinate efforts
- Adjust
- Special needs
- Ethnic or cultural differences
- Language barriers
- Location



Additional Considerations

- Presence of others
- Documentation



Active Listening

- Pay attention
- Show you are listening
- Provide feedback
- Defer Judgment
- Respond appropriately



Key Points

- Concentration and determination
- Old habits are hard to break
- Be deliberate
- Set aside other thoughts
- Ask questions and reflect
- Paraphrase to confirm



Establishing Safety

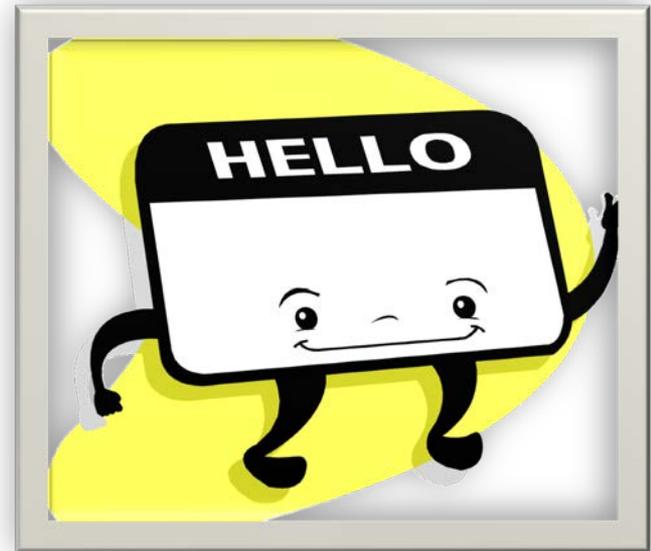


- Be confident
- Know the details
- Building rapport
- Keep an open mind
- Being prepared
- Introductions to avoid



Initial Contact

- Being at their level
- Simple introduction
- Neutral job explanation
- Get acquainted



Establishing Safety

- Provide sense of control
- Compliment
- Remove barriers
- Monitor yourself
- Permissions to correct
- Ground rules

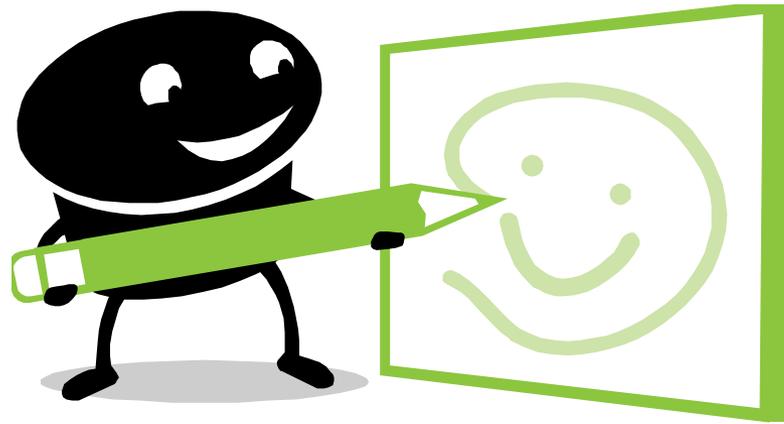


Additional Tips

- Explain repeated questions
- Motivating instructions
- Promises of truthfulness

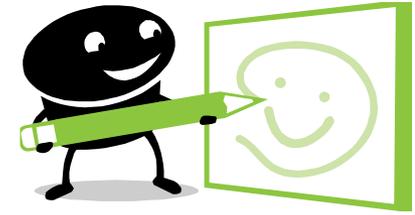


Resources





Review



- Name three trauma responses
- Name at least 4 steps in establishing safety
- Name at least 3 elements of active listening
- Explain the importance of flexibility



Things That Matter

