



Carolyn Bailey papers

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USE OF ANATOMICALLY CORRECT DOLLS

Verbal skills of children vary immensely. Dolls are a means to help children verbalize. *Most effective under 8 yrs. + Mentally Retarded.*

Dolls are a suggestion of the body. Too much detail can distract and embarrass.

Dolls will not work all the time. Some children are articulate enough so the dolls are not necessary.

Dolls are an investigative tool. They have been used in Grand Jury hearings, but the child should be able to tell the story without the dolls during a competency hearing.

*Family of dolls.
holes in body parts
Clothing.
Furniture.*

1. Always explain the dolls and how you intend to use them to the parent or significant others ahead of time and away from the child. The parent may react negatively to the dolls.
2. Talk to the child away from the parent. Frequently parents react negatively when they see the reality of doll play.
3. Introduce the dolls to the child as your helpers. Give the child permission to use the dolls.
or
Introduce the dolls as your friends who help children with their problems, then give permission to play with them.
4. The child can play with the dolls while the officer is preparing for the interview.
5. Be prepared for the child to laugh at the body parts. Laugh with them.

6. Beginning the interview:
 - a) Do you have dolls of your own?
 - b) How are my dolls different from your dolls?
 - c) Can you show me the difference?
 - d) What do you call this part?
" " " " " " (leading to sexual parts)
Ascertain the child's terminology, and use the child's words.
 - e) These dolls are used to help you tell me what has happened. *show*

7. Identify each doll (first the victim, then, "Who is this doll - suspect?" Do not name the dolls in any way other than the victim's and suspect's names (not "bad guy", etc.).
Eliminate dolls that are not involved.
8. "Show me what happened." *Simulate circumstances (bath, bed)*
Once the child starts to tell, the child often tells very rapidly. A tape recorder can assist here.

Find out and clarify what clothing was on. *→ If on, show what was removed? How & by whom? how touched.*
The dolls do not replace normal interviewing techniques. They are simply a means of helping the child to communicate.

9. State in report how the dolls were introduced and used, and identify the dolls as "demonstrative evidence" (then not as likely to be tied up in court).

Side benefits:

1. Dolls help the child psychologically to express herself.
2. Dolls help the child in regaining some control.
3. Dolls give the child something real to hold on to in an abnormal situation.

Esp. effective with three-year olds, or when unsure if sexual abuse has occurred.

*Ex. Holding daddy's "tail".
"Put a 'stick' in me."*

*Alternatives: Drawings
Coloring books
Painting*