

Module 1



How to Promote Child-friendly Interactions with Children

Assessment – Answers

- 1) A police officer who wants to respect the right of the child to participation must:
 - b. Provide all relevant information to the child in a child-friendly manner, allow the child to express his/her point of view, and take this opinion into account in the next step.



The right of the child to express his/her point of view does not mean that one must apply exactly that option. The determination of the best interests of the child is equally important, as the child may want something that is contrary to his/her own best interests.

- 2) The responsibility of the police officer upon first contact with the child is to:
 - a. Make sure to initiate the first contact by talking to the child, explaining what is happening, and letting the child know that he/she can trust the officer for the next step.



The first contact should focus on a brief and respectful conversation in which the police should provide answers to the following questions: Who am I? Who are you? Are you OK? What is happening? What will happen now? Do you have questions?

- 3) A boy is victim of physical violence, and you must tell him what options are available to him. What is the best way to explain the situation to the boy?
 - d. "It is important that I contact your parents as they are responsible for you. We will also need to discuss your case with a judge to determine what should be done next. Do you have any questions?"



It is important to use simple vocabulary, short sentences and to be objective in describing the situation.

- 4) A 10-year-old girl was assaulted in front of her 6-year-old brother. A neighbour arrived at the moment when it happened and saw the suspect escaping. When the police arrive at the scene, who should be interviewed first?
- c. The neighbour, because her testimony is easy to collect, rather than starting by interviewing the children who should first receive medical and psychosocial support. The possibility of conducting an interview should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in light of the child's condition.



It is always important to attend to the immediate needs of the child before proceeding with an interview. An interview with a child should be prepared, coordinated, and conducted in a location where the child can feel safe to share what happened.

- 5) If a child contradicts his/her statements in an interview with a police officer, and the police officer has doubts about the truthfulness of the statement made by the child, what would be the best approach to move forward?
- a. Suggest taking a break, then resume the interview by stating that you do not understand, saying "First, you said X, and later you said Y; would you like to tell me more about this, please?"



It is important to remain calm and formulate questions that do not demonstrate judgment. The child may be given time to re-formulate his/her thoughts and express him/herself without pressure.

- 6) You are mandated by your chief to arrest a man in his home. When you arrive on site, you find the man and easily proceed with the arrest. Then you notice that the man's 10-year-old son is alone with him. What should you do?
- d. You arrest the father, establish an initial contact with the boy, quickly explain what is happening, ask if he has relatives or a family member nearby and ensure that he connects with them, call social services and wait for their arrival. You report the situation of the boy and the action taken following the arrest.



Protecting children often means referring cases to the appropriate services.

- 7) The initial contact between a police officer and a child is vital to the efficacy of police procedures and the safety of the child. The police can achieve this by:
- c. Making sure to explain to the child what is happening, verifying that the child feels confident and trusts the officer without fear of being judged, and asking whether the child has any questions.



Building trust is one of the six "rules" for conducting a good and child-friendly interview. This can be achieved by being mindful of one's body language, attitude and language used to communicate with the child. The police officer should be ready to answer any questions that the child may have.

- 8) Which of the following is not an exemplary technique for good communication with children?
- c. Using closed-ended questions.



Questions that can be answered by "yes" or "no" are not recommended.

- 9) Which of the following statements is true in relation to an interview conducted with a 16-year-old male suspected of committing a major crime?
- b. The child is still undergoing changes and development. Therefore, the police officer should be understanding and adjust his/her approach, and treat him as a vulnerable person.



Even when the child is suspected of being in conflict with the law, he/she must be presumed innocent and all principles relating to children, including those pertaining to justice, must be applied.

- 10) Why should a police officer react differently to a 12-year-old child compared to a 17-year-old child?
- a. Children of different ages are at different stages of development and therefore require different communication techniques and different diversion measures.



Each child is different, and the justice system must adapt to the child's evolving capacities and level of maturity.