



How to Promote Child-friendly Interactions with Children

Assessment



Distribute the assessment for Module 1 to the participants and give them 15 minutes to answer the questions. Then distribute the answer sheet and ask participants to work in pairs and correct each other's answers.

Note that the questions relate not only to the content of this module, but also to the knowledge and skills that should have been part of previous training.

- 1) A police officer who wants to respect the right of the child to participation must:
 - a. Allow the child to decide on his/her own sentence and length of detention.
 - 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.
 - c. Allow the child to work and contribute to his/her family's revenues.
 - d. Allow the child to witness the judicial procedures concerning his/her own case.

- 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.
 - b. Conduct a medical assessment to ensure that the child is safe and in good health.
 - c. Return the child to his/her family, assess the family's capacity to take care of the child, mobilize the social services, and monitor how the situation evolves over time.
 - d. Hug the child, reassure him/her, take the child to the officer's home, provide the child with a place to sleep if no shelters are open at that time of the day.

- 3) A boy is the 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?
- “The Penal Code requires that I contact your legal guardian and refer the case to the court so that they can examine the possibility of indicting the perpetrator”.
 - “Don't worry, everything will be fine. We will see what we can do. I will take care of you, just rest and trust me.”
 - “Your parents have been informed about the next step and they will explain to you what will happen. If there is a problem, ask them to come and help you.”
 - “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?”
- 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?
- The girl who was assaulted, because her testimony is critical to the judicial proceeding against the suspect.
 - The brother who saw what happened, because he witnessed the crime and will soon forget about it since he is young. Obtaining information from him quickly will also preclude having to interview the girl who is probably still traumatized.
 - 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.
 - No testimony should be collected during the first contact, as the priority is for everyone involved to receive medical and psychosocial support. Interviews can be conducted a few weeks later.
- 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 statements made by the child, what would be the best approach to move forward?
- Suggest taking a break, then resume the interview by stating that you did not understand, saying “First, you said X, and later you said Y; would you like to tell me more about this, please?”
 - Immediately stop the interview, as it is better not to traumatize the child when the police officer knows very well that it would not be possible to make good use of the information provided.

- c. Confront the child about the contradictions in his/her testimony and insist that he/she tells the truth.
 - d. Let it go and continue the interview, as other interesting information might emerge.
- 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?
- a. Nothing, as you are not a social worker; you have to execute orders from your chief and it is not your mandate to take care of children.
 - b. You take the child with you, take him home at the end of the day and take care of him until a family member is found, because you are a strong believer in children's rights.
 - c. You cancel the arrest and wait for further instruction from a social worker who could take care of the child before arresting the father.
 - 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.
- 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:
- a. Calming the child and escorting him/her home if there are not enough resources available to place him/her in the care of social services.
 - b. Returning the child to his/her family and ensuring that the family will be responsible for the child.
 - c. Making sure to explain to the child what is happening, verifying that the child feels confident and trusts the police officer without fear of being judged, and asking whether the child has any questions.
 - d. Telling the child that everything will be okay and not to worry.
- 8) Which of the following is not an exemplary technique for good communication with children?
- a. Using a calm tone of voice and displaying empathy.
 - b. Asking one question at a time and avoiding sub-questions.
 - c. Using closed-ended questions.
 - d. Asking "can you tell me more about this"?

- 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?
- a. At 16 years, a child is mature enough to understand the risks and consequences of criminal behaviour; thus, he should take responsibility for the crime and be punished.
 - b. The child is still undergoing changes and development. Therefore, the police officer should be understanding and adjust his/her approach, and treat the child as a vulnerable person.
 - c. A child is never responsible for the commission of a crime. Therefore, he should not have to undergo any formal legal proceedings.
 - d. The parents of the child do not have to participate in the case because the child is old enough to make decisions, especially if he/she does not want his parents to know about the crime.
- 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 diversion measures.
 - b. The police officer should not react differently because the gravity of the crime remains the same, thus children should be tried similarly, regardless of their age.
 - c. The 17-year-old child should be treated differently because the older the child is, the harsher the punishment should be.
 - d. The principle of non-discrimination means that, notwithstanding the age of the child, the communication approach should be the same for all children.