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An open and shut case of closed questions- An exploration of joint investigative interview training in Scotland

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Free narrative accounts by children and young people have been shown to produce the highest quality of evidence when children are interviewed in relation to child protection concerns. Free narrative draws on free recall memory, which is the most reliable source of evidence. In Scotland, where children and young people, who may have been harmed, are generally interviewed jointly by police officers and social workers, professionals tend to be confident in their ability to encourage free narrative. However, evidence shows that this style of interviewing can be challenging as it is a departure from everyday conversation in British culture. As a result, children and young people can be significantly directed by interviewers, reducing the value of evidence and resulting in less reliable statements for legal proceedings, potentially leaving children and young people at risk. The author explores the effectiveness of training for professionals and the need for ongoing support and evaluation of interviewers' practice to encourage professional development and to maintain standards. The possible relevance of free narrative application to other areas of work with children and young people is explored.

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Detection and molecular characterization of enteropathogenic bacteria isolated from children with acute Diarrhea, slaughtered animals and raw meat samples in Tehran, Iran

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Infectious diarrhea is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally. Worldwide, enteropathogenic bacteria are responsible for one of the most important infectious diseases linked to the food industry, affecting animal welfare with the potential to give rise to public health problems. A total of 445 samples, including 235 domestic cow feces collected from 3 semi-urban community farms, 134 ground beef samples from slaughtered bovine/sheep sources (a Tehran abattoir), and 76 fecal samples from human children (1 to 60 months of age) with acute diarrhea were examined for 12 different genes via a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) approach. Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* strains were isolated from 41% of meat, 64% of cattle feces, and 24% of children's fecal samples. PCR analysis indicated that 16 samples in total were positive for O157:H7. Also, the 14% of human children and 0.85% of cattle species were *Shigella* spp. - positive. The most commonly isolated STEC bacteria were from the O146, O112a and O44 serogroups for all 3 sources. Remarkably, none of the STEC strains proved to be from the O145, O111 and O26 serogroups. In conclusion, these observations provide strong evidence that STEC is one of the major causes of diarrhea in developing countries, mainly in children. The panel of assays employed offer simple strategies for the widespread detection and characterization of Diarrheagenic *E. coli* isolates from a range of sources. DEC detection in this manner facilitates our understanding of their prevalence, clinical characteristics, and epidemiology, and also supports the development of food safety control programs which target all STEC serotypes.

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