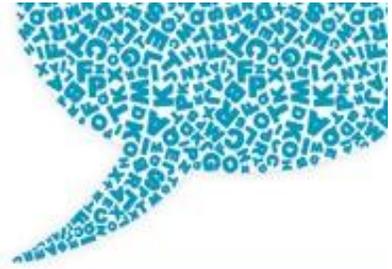




training the world
to **listen.**



About Us



Vision

Children grow up free
from abuse

Mission

Assure that the voices
of children and
adolescents are heard

DHS Scholarships to Attend CornerHouse Basic Forensic Interview Training - Deadline this Friday

Since 1992, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has generously supported forensic interview training in the State of Minnesota by providing professionals with scholarships to attend CornerHouse Forensic Interview Training courses. CornerHouse is now accepting applications for Basic Forensic Interview Training scholarships. Applications must arrive at CornerHouse by Friday, November 21 at 4:30pm.

[Click here to view the flier and scholarship application.](#)

It's Not Too Late to Register for December Basic Training!

CornerHouse Basic Forensic Interview Training is a highly interactive training that teaches the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol: a credible, reliable, developmentally flexible, and trauma-sensitive forensic interview protocol appropriate for children, adolescents, and vulnerable adults who allege sexual abuse, physical abuse, and/or witnessing a violent crime. Training will be held December 8-12, 2014 in Minneapolis, MN.

Child First Philosophy

The child is our first
priority.
Not the needs of the
family.
Not the child's "story."
Not the evidence.
Not the need of the
courts.
Not the needs of
police, child protection,
or attorneys.
The child is our first
priority.



[Like us on facebook](#)

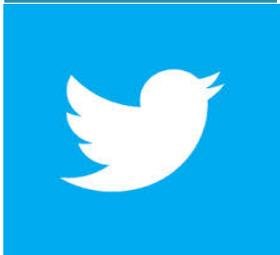


Learners at our October Basic Forensic Interview Training.

[Click here to learn more and register now.](#)

Questions: Contact Jill Hayes, Forensic Interviewer and Trainer,
at 612-813-8332 or jill.hayes@childrensmn.org

[Follow us on twitter](#)



Ask the Trainer

Michelle Nadeem, a Forensic Interviewer from Valley Children's
Advocacy Center in Staunton, VA, asks:

**What words, phrases, and/or behaviors are safe (legally
sound) to use when a child is visibly upset in a forensic
interview?**

*CornerHouse Forensic Interviewer and Trainer, Anne Lukas
Miller, Answers:*

*It is important for an interviewer to remain consistently neutral
throughout the forensic interview. However, "neutral" does not
equal unresponsive. Neutrality means open-minded and
unbiased; gathering the child's information without influence or
assumption. At the same time, a forensic interview must be
adjusted to the needs and abilities of the individual being
interviewed, and should not create additional, unnecessary
trauma for that person. We know that rapport is essential, and
when children feel comfortable, they are more apt to maximize
their own competency, and provide more accurate information.*

[Visit our website](#)



Therefore, when a child presents as visibly upset in the interview, we should not assume that we know what the child is experiencing, or why. As with nearly everything else that is presented in the forensic interview, we begin by seeking further information. We do this by inviting the child to clarify, using language that is developmentally appropriate and observational. For example: "I see you are crying, tell me about that" instead of "I know that you're upset and that this hard to talk about." We are then able to use the child's definition of "what's wrong" to provide appropriate orienting messages. Although we do not make promises, offer opinions or communicate judgment, we can provide a reassuring message about our expectations within the interview. For example, instead of saying, "It's not your fault and your uncle should not have done that," we can say, "No matter what you tell me, I am not going to think anything is your fault." Or "You said you're sad; I can understand that. Tell me about the things that make you sad."

The key is to use the child's words, and acknowledge the child's own thoughts or emotions. Within the context of the forensic interview, we should not attempt to change a child's perspective or experience, even in an effort to provide comfort. By communicating our acceptance, we allow the child to define their own experience, in their own way. Such an approach is not only respectful and affirming, is also achieves the goal of an individually-centered and forensically-sound process.

Do you have a question about forensic interviewing? Ask the experts. CornerHouse Trainers are all active forensic interviewers with over 40 years of combined experience in the field. Submit your question to training@cornerhousemn.org with the subject line "Ask the Trainer" and you (and the answer) could be featured in our next Training Corner.

Expanded Training Opportunities in 2015

CornerHouse is expanding its Training Program in 2015. Next year, we will continue to offer Basic Forensic Interview Training in Minneapolis as well as a variety of on-site trainings with a CornerHouse Forensic Interviewer and Trainer traveling to your community. In addition, we will be offering more training opportunities in Minneapolis including:

- Advanced Forensic Interview Training - a protocol neutral training with both in-person and online content
- MultiSession Interview Training - a protocol neutral, in-person training
- Protocol Update Training - training specifically for individuals trained in the CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol between 2005 and 2012

New CornerHouse Website

CornerHouse has a new and improved website. We've been working very hard on it and are excited to show it off. Please check it out:

www.cornerhousemn.org