Introducing Tele-Forensic Interviewing to Child Victims to be Interviewed

A brief guide for forensic interviewers on introducing the tele-forensic interview scenario.

Subject # ______________     Notes:
Date ______________
Interviewer ______________

| Introduction to TFI Scenario | □ Hi ____ , my name is ____ .  
□ We’re talking through a computer. That’s pretty cool isn’t it? Have you ever talked to someone through a computer? [Wait for response.]
If “no”: Have you ever talked to someone on the phone?  
[Wait for response.]
□ Well talking on the computer is a lot like talking on the phone. On the phone we can hear each other. But on the computer we can see each other too. I can see you and you can see me. I have some questions to ask you but I can’t be there right now, so this is how we’re going to talk today, through the computer. Okay?
□ While we’re talking on the computer it might freeze—it might get stuck. If that happens you should quit talking and my helper who is sitting with you will tell you when it’s okay to start talking again. Also, if the computer freezes I might have to ask you a question again, okay?
□ My job is to listen to children, and today I’m going to listen to you. The helper lady sitting next to you might write down some notes so I can remember what you say, and she has a tape recorder in case I forget something. While we’re talking I need you to talk loud, okay?
□ I’d like to know a little more about you. How old are you, [child’s name]?
□ Oh, [child’s age]. So what [grade/preschool] are you in? [Wait for response.]
□ I’m interested in what children do in [grade/preschool] now. Tell me about a day at your school, from the time you start school until the time you are done for the day. Tell me everything you can about a day at school. [Show interest throughout.]  
If you need to get them started, say, “What do you do when you first get to school?”  
If they stop after one piece of info, say “What happens next?”  
If they don’t get to the end of the day, prompt them with “And then what happens?” |
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<th>Topic Introduction</th>
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<tr>
<td>□ Good. I’m going to ask you about something else now. Did you come to the university a couple of weeks ago and go into the science room and play some Germ Detective games? If yes, skip to Open Ended</td>
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<td>□ [If “no,” prompt] Do you remember when you went into the science room and you got some money? If child needs additional prompting:</td>
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<td>□ [Bring out a lab coat and safety glasses.] Do you remember when someone asked you to wear this coat and these glasses and do some science games? Did you see this when you came to the university?</td>
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