

Assessment Exercise Discussion Groups

Topics for Discussion

1. **Introduce the transcript.** The person who conducted the interview introduces the person to the group (gender and age only). Clarify the worker's relationship to the person.
2. **Worker reads the interview to the group.** This can be done by another person if needed.
3. **Reflect on the piece of assessment work together. If looking at a transcript, consider each memory system,** and try to identify 2 or 3 discourse markers in each memory system. Pay particular attention where themes of **danger** or **sexuality** are explicit or implicit (beneath the surface).
4. **Do you see any patterns emerging?** Be collaborative, using a discovery approach, and if you develop a hypothesis, look to 'disprove' it as you continue your discussion.
5. **If you begin to see some 'A-ish' or 'C-ish' strategy, consider:**
 - Is it consistently A or C, or is it A at times and C at others? If it varies, can you see a pattern to the variation?
 - Whose perspective is taken? Their own? Others? Does this vary?
 - How clear, or 'extreme', is the 'A-ish' or 'C-ish' discourse?
 - Do you see any indicators of genuine integration, of meta-cognition, or of re-organising towards B?
 - Do you agree with any conclusions that the speaker reaches? To what degree are they omitting, distorting, misinterpreting or falsifying their own or other people's thoughts, feelings or actions? How aware / unaware do you think they are of these transformations?
 - What thought and feelings do the group have?
6. **After the above discussion: Help the worker to consider:**
 - What reflections do they have about the observations made during the discussion?
 - What reflections do they have on their interviewing approach?
 - What was the interview or observation like for them? (e.g. think of a metaphor for the process: Was it a gentle back and forth tandem swing? Was it like pulling teeth? A game of cat and mouse? Etc.)
 - What thoughts and feelings did they have, including thoughts and feelings about themselves and about the interviewee? (These can include the 'behind the professional mask' thoughts and feelings.)
 - What topics did they focus on, and which did they avoid, if any?
 - How would they approach the interview if they had it to do over again?
 - How does this understanding of the individual family member link to the wider family functioning?
 - Is further work indicated with the family member? What further resources or preparation will they need to do?
7. **Please prepare to feed back your findings to the large group.**