

Ethnographic Interview Review Check List

Guidelines for Self Analysis

Please use this opportunity to practice the use of ethnographic interviewing strategies. For example, with parents, consumers, and or family members you might seek information regarding background information about their child or family member as well as their concerns, priorities, and resources as they relate to the child or individual receiving services. Self analysis of your interviewing technique can be accomplished through consideration of the following questions. You may also wish to ask the individual you are “interviewing” how they perceived questions asked, comfort level, ease of communication, etc.

Questions:

How did you “develop rapport” and/or establish trust with the interviewee?

- Did you fully explain the purpose of the interview?
- Did you restate what the informant said using key phrases/terms?
- Did you decrease ‘why’ questions when appropriate to convey a nonjudgmental attitude and ask for use?
- How did you convey ‘empathy’? Provide examples.

How were you an “effective listener?”

- Verbal behaviors?
- Nonverbal behaviors?
- How did the individual respond?

How did you gather information?

- Use of close questions? (Provide example(s) from script.)
- Use of descriptive questions? Grand tour? Mini tour? Ask for examples/experience? (Provide example(s) from script.)
- Use of open questions? (Provide examples from script.)
- Did you ask one question at a time?

Did you use “effective communication” strategies? Provide examples from script.

- Effective questions?
- Silent probes?
- Reflection of feelings/statement to insure accuracy of your perception?
- Reflection of content by paraphrasing, restating or reframing or summarizing?
- Affirmations.

How did you maintain direction and close the interview?

- How did you stay on topic? (Provide examples).
- Did you use prefatory statements for transition? (Provide examples.)
- How did you integrate information and summarize to bring the interview to a close? (Provide examples.)

In summary, how did you accomplish the purposes of the interview?

- Creation of a trusting and respectful relationship
- Gathering of relevant information

Did you know what you wanted to find out? Did you ask the right questions to get the desired information? Did you provide appropriate verbal and nonverbal feedback to the person being interviewed?

References

- Westby, C. (1990). Ethnographic interviewing: Asking the right questions to the right people in the right way. *Journal of Childhood Communication Disorders*, 13(11), 101-111.
- Hanson, Lynch, & Wayman. (1990). Honoring the cultural diversity of families when gathering data. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 10, 112-131.
- Winton, P. (1988) Effective communication between parents and professionals. In D. B. Bailey Jr. & R. J. Simeonsson (Eds.), *Family Assessment in Early Intervention* (pp.207-228), Columbus, OH: Merrill.

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