Investigative interviews with children suspected of being exposed to sexual and physical abuse

Föreläsare
Professor Ann-Christin Cederborg, Psykologiska institutionen, Stockholms universitet

Titel
Investigative interviews with children suspected of being exposed to sexual and physical abuse.

Tid

Plats
Rum 357, Frescati Hagväg 14, plan 3.

Ansvarig avdelning
Personlighets-, social- och utvecklingspsykologi.

Presentation/abstract
Interviewing children who may have experiences of sexual and physical abuse is a challenge in the world of forensic interviewing. This presentation includes research-based knowledge of best possible practice in order to accomplish as accurate reports as possible from children but also a presentation of a training program for police officers who interview children as child witnesses.

Swedish police officers have been criticized for their inadequate interview practices. Among other things, they seldom use open questions when interviewing child witnesses. Instead, they rely heavily on recognition memory-based option posing and suggestive questions.

In 2007 the National Swedish Police Board asked the police academy in Stockholm to provide an appropriate academic training for officers who conduct forensic interviews with child witnesses. I became responsible for this course, which is inspired by previous research on effective training.

The training program emphasizes the need for children to be interviewed as soon as possible after the alleged offenses, for interviewers to intrude as little as possible and to encourage children to provide as much information as possible in the form of narratives elicited using open-ended prompts.