**Jeopardy in the courtroom: A scientific analysis of children's testimony.**

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Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association

Using case studies ranging from the Salem Witch Hunt to the Little Rascals Day Care case to illustrate their argument, "Jeopardy in the Courtroom" draws from the vast corpus of scientific research to clarify what is most relevant for evaluating and understanding children's statements made in the legal arena. Bringing good sense to a topic that is as timely as it is controversial, Ceci and Bruck provide prevalence and incidence statistics on child abuse, provide theoretical overviews of memory and suggestibility, trace the history of research on suggestibility from the turn of the century to the present, explore the dynamics of structured and therapeutic interviews with children, examine the topic of recovery of repressed memories of early childhood abuse, evaluate the research regarding age differences in the reliability of children's reports, and propose general guidelines for interviewing children in a sensitive and professional manner.   
Written in lively, accessible language by acknowledged experts in the field, this book will be an invaluable guide for expert witnesses and all those who work with child witnesses, including therapists, social workers, law enforcement personnel, and lawyers. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)

**Memory and suggestibility in maltreated children: Age, stress arousal, dissociation, and psychopathology ☆**

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Abstract

The present study was designed to assess children’s memory and suggestibility in the context of ongoing child maltreatment investigations. One hundred eighty-nine 3–17-year-olds involved in evaluations of alleged maltreatment were interviewed with specific and misleading questions about an anogenital examination and clinical assessment. For the anogenital examination, children’s stress arousal was indexed both behaviorally and physiologically. For all children, individual-difference data were gathered on intellectual and short-term memory abilities, general psychopathology, and dissociative tendencies. Interviewers’ ratings were available for a subset of children concerning the amount of detail provided in abuse disclosures. Results indicated that general psychopathology, short-term memory, and intellectual ability predicted facets of children’s memory performance. Older compared to younger children evinced fewer memory errors and greater suggestibility resistance. Age was also significantly related to the amount of detail in children’s abuse disclosures. Neither dissociation nor stress arousal significantly predicted children’s memory. Implications for understanding maltreated children’s eyewitness memory are discussed.

Memory and suggestibility in maltreated children: New research relevant to evaluating allegations of abuse. Eisen, Mitchell L.; Goodman, Gail S.; Qin, Jianjian; Davis, Suzanne L. Lynn, Steven Jay (Ed); McConkey, Kevin M. (Ed), (1998). Truth in memory., (pp. 163-189). New York, NY, US: Guilford Press, xix, 508 pp.

Abstract: In this chapter, we review relevant studies on memory and suggestibility in children, including the developmental literature on effects of stress and trauma on memory. We also focus on the possible role of individual differences in children's memory performance. This review is followed by a discussion of the importance of ecological validity in studying children's eyewitness memory. Finally, we present an overview of a recent study we conducted concerning effects of age, dissociation, and stress arousal on memory and suggestibility in abused and neglected children. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)