

Forensic psychological interview with Eveline 17.3.2005

During the interviewing situation Eveline sits calmly and makes eye contact with the interviewer. The interviewer describes the rules of the discussion and Eveline understands the meaning of being truthful. Eveline is able to describe her life situation in many words and in a structured manner. She first accounts for with whom she has lived and with whom she lives now. She tells that she has her own room at home and that there is a lock on the room door.

I: I have heard that some adult is worried that something would have happened to you?

E: Well at least Rebecca strikes me sometimes and sometimes she pulls my hair. She gets angry pretty easily.

I: Has dad also hurt you?

E: Well he grabs my hand like that but at least he doesn't pull my hair or strike me.

I: Has someone else done that?

E: Well no, they haven't. But Nadia pulled my hair once.

At this stage the basics of the drawn character are looked through. Eveline names the girl's genitalia vagina and the boy's penis. Eveline quickly passes by the genitalia and hurries to move to other body parts.

I: Has someone touched you in the vagina?

E: Well no.

I: Do you remember any such situation where someone would have?

E: No.

I: What about when you were younger?

E: No.

I: What about when wiping after going to the toilet?

E: No.

The interviewer reminds that it is allowed to talk about all kinds of matters in this room.

I: Whose penises have you seen?

E: Not much anyone's, not much, and I can't even remember anything like that.

I: What about when washing, in the sauna?

E: Weell, no.

I: With whom do you go to sauna?

E: With everybody, but I don't ever look at such things. When I was younger sometimes looked, but I can't even remember stuff like that. I don't want to look and I do all kinds of normal stuff and I don't want to be like that, that I would look.

I: Why don't you look?

E: Because it's... I don't want to look and I do normal stuff and I don't want to be that way, that I would look.

I: What does Nadia do in those situations?

E: Well I don't know a lot about her situations. She quite often looks, but at least I never look. If she does something stupidly, I won't repeat the same stupid thing after her.

I: Are there such situations, where someone has touched you in the vagina or in the bottom?

E: No one has done that awfully much. I don't remember, because I was then four or five and I can't even remember that either because it was a year ago at least. I can't remember it anymore, when it's my birthday because, yes well, because. But sometimes I'm bullied, but I never did stuff like that. I have never done stuff like that.

I: Well tell me a little bit about the bullying.

Eveline tells about some hitting and kicking and fighting between friends on the school yard.

I: Well do adults ever bully you?

E: Weell, sometimes. Not very often, as children bully.

I: Tell me about when adults bully.

E: Well sometimes they for example say a bad word and then say that you shouldn't say that, and it bugs me out.

I: What are the bad words?

E: I know *shit*. I don't remember I know anything else, because I have at least not said them to anyone.

Eveline tells that Nadia says them.

I: A moment ago when I asked about the touching you said that I don't remember because I was then four or five years old.

E: I was one or zero years old. Because at least I can't now remember if I've seen them, because I can't remember exactly.

I: Such things are difficult to remember, about when you have been little.

E: Yes, but they happen quite often and like.

I: Tell me again about, when you think of that the bottom or the vagina was touched when you were little.

E: I can't remember that. Daddy maybe remembers, or he does because daddy has been my daddy the whole time then. And daddy has seen them if I have done those things.

I: When was that?

E: I can't remember exactly.

H: Well tell me everything you do remember.

E: I have touched once, but I haven't touched at all again after that. That one time I did it but then I stopped the same day because daddy said you are not allowed. I didn't understand when I was little, but then daddy said and I understood. Then daddy took me in his lap.

I: Where did you touch?

E: Well in the vagina, but I was so little that I didn't understand what it was.

I: Whose vagina did you touch?

E: Well I don't remember anymore. That I don't remember.

I: Your own or somebody else's?

E: Well my own, but as I'm older I've never touched it.

I: Has somebody else touched you in the vagina but you?

E: Well no, only when I was smaller I touched it alone.

I: Have you ever seen that someone else's vagina or bottom would have been touched?

E: I have never.

I: Have you seen on the telly or on pictures or for example on the computer?

E: No, never. Only my own, but I have only seen stuff like that when I was little, but not me, when I was zero years old or one or maybe two years old. But I haven't otherwise done stuff like that, at least not when older and not otherwise either. Only when I didn't yet understand what it was. So I haven't otherwise done anything to them.

I: Have you seen that someone else would have touched someone's penis?

E: No, at least not I, because Nadia moved in with us then, when they divorced, they came to our place. It is back then, last year, that Nadia has done those things, but not me as often as she.

I: What has she done?

E: Well did that what you just said. I don't know about it, when she hasn't lived with us as long as I have lived.

I: Well tell me about what you know about the thing.

E: Well that Nadia has touched the way you just said. The vaginas and penises have been touched. And haven't but only one time myself.

I: How do you know that Nadia has done so?

E: Because Rebecca has told me, that Nadia has done. I haven't as often as she has. Because I have only [done it to] myself. Because I have been so little and didn't understand anything.

I: Whose vagina or penis has Nadia touched?

E: Well I don't know. Someone's, I don't know. Only Rebecca has said that Nadia has done so.

I: Has someone asked you to do so?

E: No they have not.

I: Did that Rebecca ask you to do so when she told about the thing?

E: No, she never asked me to do like that and do like that, because I wasn't asked when I was little either. I just did like that, I wasn't asked, and I can't remember it anymore. I just remember the situation but then I didn't even understand what they are and stuff.

I: Has Nadia herself told you about the touching of the vagina and the penis.

E: No she has never discussed here and she hasn't discussed otherwise either.

I: Has she told you?

E: No, because I don't want to listen. I just put my ear plugs.

I: What has she tried to tell you?

E: It's a week ago now.

I: Have you talked about these vagina and penis things with some adult?

E: No.

Eveline describes that John has done something inappropriate, John and Nadia in particular. Eveline tells that the police called Rebecca and Rebecca knows it. Eveline says that the police took the computers and that John is away. Eveline says she has wondered about this at home. Eveline says "they have done something inappropriate, but I don't know about it, because I wasn't there. I was sleeping then and I was sound asleep then. I was sleeping in my own room with the blanket up covering my ears."

I: Well did you hear anything?

E: I didn't hear anything. I was that fast asleep. Mom also always tells me that I never hear anything when I sleep because I am that fast asleep.

I: Have you seen that something inappropriate would have been done?

E: No they have done it themselves.

H: Have you ever seen such things that adults touch another's vagina or penis.

E: No I have never seen.

I: You said the computer was taken away.

Eveline tells about the computer and about taking it away.

I: Had you seen the pictures on that computer?

E: No because Rebecca said that it is not allowed, that the police looks at them. And I have never looked at any stuff like that. But I don't know what they did, did they do robbery or what.

Eveline describes that the thing started when Nadia told something at granny and grandpa's. Eveline says that she has not seen. She tells that Nadia has done something. Nadia and John have done something that Eveline does not know about nor has she heard about those things.

I: Have you done anything with John that would be odd?

E: No, I have only discussed and done usual things.

I: What do you usually do with John?

E: I discuss, hug. With daddy I help making food and I go to sleep when daddy tells me to. Normal stuff. Sometimes we play a game or play hide and seek or tag.

I: What kind of hide and seek or tag?

Eveline describes a normal game of hide and seek that she plays with Nadia and John. Sometimes they also play lion, so that John is the lion that tries to catch the children. Then he tickles them under the armpits.

I: What about somewhere else?

E: Not anywhere else, at least I can't remember.

I: Does daddy tickle Nadia in the same way?

E: Well no. Daddy and Nadia did inappropriate things, but they didn't say what because they kept the whole thing secret.

Eveline tells, embarrassed, about the fact that John Rebecca and Nadia have secrets that they don't share with Eveline.

I: Are you guessing that something inappropriate would have been made to you?

E: No. I haven't done anything inappropriate with daddy, because I have only done usual things.

It is decided to take a break in the interviewing. During the break Eveline drinks some juice and plays with a doll house. The interview is then continued by talking about getting angry.

Eveline describes that sometimes they strike and pull the hair and are put one in the closet. When asked who puts them in the closet Eveline replies daddy or Rebecca. Eveline tells that the door is locked and that one is in the closet at least one hour. One at a time is taken into the closet, and sometimes you even have to sleep in the closet. Eveline says that you are allowed out of the closet unless one says one's sorry and know that one is not supposed to do so. One is, e.g., not allowed to pull someone's hair and one is to sit nicely at the dinner table.

I: Are there adults with Nadia in the closet?

E: No. She has to be there overnight. Pretty many times.

I: How does one sleep there?

E: One has to have a mattress and a cover.

The interviewer asks if the children are put anywhere else and Eveline replies that sometimes they are taken out or they are put in the basement for the day. The Interviewer asks who is put and

Eveline replies that only Nadia is. When the interviewer asks how the children are then watched over, Eveline replies that they just stay there then and the next day you get out.

I: Do you know what lovemaking is?

E: I don't know, adults know goodder, because children don't know it and they don't even understand it. At least I haven't done such things and I haven't even heard such things. Adults know it.

I: Do you know what sex means?

E: No but that's exactly what they, John and Nadia, did!

I: Where have you heard that?

E: From Rebecca, because Rebecca knows it and the police know it too. This is what the problem we have is about.

Eveline replies, when asked, that she does not know what sex entails and what it is, nor has she done anything like that. Eveline also says that "at least I have not seen stuff like that on television, nor on pictures, nor on internet, nor anywhere. Because I shouldn't have done those things and I don't even understand what they are" She says that Nadia understands what it is. Eveline says that "Nadia has looked up all kinds of stuff online but I haven't looked".

I: Where have you seen naked people?

E: Nowhere. In the sauna and in the shower and I haven't anywhere else either and I haven't even seen them so much.

Eveline says she hasn't seen John and Rebecca naked together

I: Have you seen that a child and an adult would be naked?

E: No I haven't seen, at least I don't remember that I would have seen.

I: Well if you would have seen, where could you have seen such things?

E: Well somewhere. But I don't ever see it and I don't even understand what it is. Because adults understand better than children.

I: Have you seen naked people on the tv or on the computer?

E: No I have only played games. I haven't done such things myself, about which you are speaking now. I haven't done it at all.

I: Has someone told you not to speak about vagina and penis stuff?

E: Well yes because you are not usually allowed to say them.

I: Who has done that?

E: Daddy and Rebecca and mom and whoever, everybody say that you shouldn't. But adults shouldn't tell, do that either.

I: What have they said?

E: That you shouldn't say that they did that. And what they did and what. That you are not allowed to say dirty words or toilet stuff or that what you just talked about, you shouldn't talk about those things either. From a child's mouth they are nasty things.

I: Are there such things that you have actually seen but that you have been told not to tell anyone about?

E: Weell, no I haven't seen those kinds of things. At least I haven't seen that someone else would do those kinds of things.

H: Who have you seen?

E: I don't even remember, I don't know, I haven't seen that kind of stuff. That kind of yuuck.

I: Are there any kind of things that you also have been with on doing, but that you have been told not to talk about

E: I'm not doing those kinds of things. I have only once, but I have never before done it. I can't remember it exactly, when I turned five and that is an awfully long time ago, but daddy said let's forget about the whole thing. But I don't know anything else. Mommy knows it too and mommy said let's forget about the whole thing after this.

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I: Tell me about what had to be forgotten?

E: Well the dirty words and what I did then. And one isn't allowed to talk about it.

I: I would like to hear again: that one time you did it, what was it?

E: That what you said. I can't remember it anymore.

I: I talked about naked children and adults and lovemaking, was this it?

E: Well not much. I can't remember. I can't even remember their name and where it happened.

I: With whom?

E: I don't know, I can't remember.

I: Was it someone you know or a stranger.

E: Probably someone I know, I can't remember the name, it was someone I knew, long time.

H: What was the thing you were doing?

E: We played nicely with dolls otherwise.

I: Tell me everything.

E: I'm gonna tell it to you. We were under the bed playing hide-and-seek but everybody thought we were doing dirty things and everything.

I: Who were?

E: His name was Peter, in preschool. Nobody knew what the game was, so the kinder garden ladies started claiming that you did this and you did that.

I: Have you done improper things with an adult?

E: I haven't.

I: Has an adult done improper things to you?

E: Yes. At least bullied and everything.... Daddy tickles, but I don't like it. Daddy tickles in the armpits.

I: Has someone ever tickled you in the vagina or in the bottom?

E: No, nobody has.

When reminding Eveline of that the sex-word was talked about a moment ago, Eveline tells that daddy has done so, and that he/she has played hide-and-seek but it involved a misunderstanding. But John and Nadia did sex.

I: Have you seen when John and Nadia had sex?

E: No, I haven't even ever been part of that. I have been in school or doing homework, because daddy doesn't help me a lot with homework.

I: Where did you first hear that this had happened?

E: When John was away for three nights.

I: Has somebody else done sex?

E: No, not in our family.

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E: Nadia confessed, she was hiding something. I can feel it in my bones that she was hiding something.... That I know that they did some sex stuff. That's why there are pictures.

I: Have you seen the pictures before?

E: No I haven't, because I have never seen them and I will never see them either.

I: Has Rebecca been taking part in the sex stuff?

E: No she hasn't.

H: Has there been other adults?

E: No.

H: What do you think about it?

E: It was nasty to do so.

H: I wonder when the sex could have happened.

E: I can't remember, I wasn't even with on the thing.

I: Where would it have happened?

E: Well at our home, but I don't know where. They have done in it the guest room.

I: How do you know that?

E: Well I know that, because the police told me, because he/she came to visit me. And he/she talked in my room about what had happened.

I: Where were you when this sex was happening?

E: I don't know, I had probably been sleeping. I don't remember. I don't remember where I was then because I haven't seen those kinds of things.

I: Did it once or many times, I wonder?

E: Many times, I can feel it in my bones. Because Rebecca told me ...

I: Were you told in more detail what the sex had been?

E: No, no, because one should never tell me that. Because I said stop. An adult does that but if a child does, it is different. But if an adult does it too, then that is also a very freaky thing.

I: I wonder if it happened somewhere else but in the guest room.

E: Well at least I can't remember that someone would have gone into my room. One couldn't fit in there.

I: Where is the sex done then?

E: I don't know, at least there on the sofa. At least daddy does that and Nadia then, but I don't know what happened then.

I: What does it look like?

E: I don't know because I haven't even seen.

Eveline further says: "I know it was on the sofa. Because they can't do on the floor either". Eveline describes there to be a door in her room that has an alarm on it that starts beeping immediately if one touches the door. Eveline says that she has a surveillance camera in her own room. Eveline says the picture to go into the camera and that she then gets a latter and watches. Nobody notices the camera. Eveline says Nadia to have told something.

I: Have you ever seen that someone was doing sex?

E: No I haven't. That I admit, that I haven't.

H: Have you thought that things like that could be going on?

E: Well that can happen, but it is really stupid/bad. But I have never seen that kind of stuff, and I haven't been looking in the internet, I haven't looked at photos either, and I haven't seen who does things like that.

I: Have you been told to stay in the room?

E: No I have never. That I know, or remember.

I: Has some adult been in Nadia's room in the way that you have not been allowed to go in there?

E: Well yes, John. And Nadia has been there too.

Eveline tells that the door to her room has then been locked. Eveline tells Nadia and John to have been in their room. On the door it read: Stop, you are not allowed to come in here. This has happened one time.

Eveline tells Rebecca and Nadia to have whispered many times. Eveline reckons that Rebecca and Nadia also have other secrets because “you can see it in their faces, that they have kept something secret from me” - Eveline says that she starts to get angry if Rebecca or Nadia brushes past her hand.

Eveline tells that there is one computer in the house and that it is in John’s and Rebecca’s room. Eveline tells that daddy writes on the computer with his friend. John, Rebecca and Nadia have their own messengers.

Eveline tells that the computer also has a web cam. Eveline doesn’t think the camera has been used at all. Eveline herself tells her only sometimes to have played games on the computer. Nobody has asked her to be there, and she is often forbidden to go on the computer.

I: Has Rebecca and daddy done something with Nadia on the computer.

E: Probably yes. Rebecca has asked Nadia to write something on it. It is some time ago.

I: What did she write?

E: Well something. I couldn’t make out anything of it because I couldn’t even read then.

I: Well with whom did they write?

E: With some man or then daddy writes with that Mary. She is daddy’s friend.

Eveline says she didn’t see Nadia or daddy after the event. She says that Harry is her stand-in-dad. Eveline talks some more about Harry and says that Eveline’s mother likes Harry a lot. Eveline does some drawings and the interview ends.

The psychologist’s examination

During the appointment at the psychologist Eveline appears to be a functional and positive girl in relation to her age. Eveline’s performance in cognitive reasoning, general knowledge and perception of her surroundings seems to respond to the mean expectation of her age group. In tasks that require accuracy and memory Eveline performs weaker than her age would predict. This can indicate either problems with short-time memory or can be an effect of the level of strain linked with the examination situation.