

Minimally verbal interview questions

This interview was originally designed for autistic bilingual children aged between 7 and 16 years of age. The type of interview used will depend on the abilities and support needs of each participant. Younger children and participants with communication aids may enjoy an activity-based interview whereas an older participant with no communication support needs may prefer a talking interview. The questions asked can be altered depending on the needs of the participants.

Interview Kit

The interviewer should have a number of items with them to aid the interview:

1. An audio recorder for recording interviews
2. A camera for the participants to use to take pictures
3. A timer
4. Emotion identification cards
5. A visual timetable of the interview

For minimally verbal interviews, there should also be:

1. Visual symbols for communication
2. A coloured strip for the interviewer to put symbols to ask questions
3. A different coloured strip for the participant to answer questions
4. Symbols/ pictures should be personalised for each participant by talking to parents in advance and going through the interview questions.

Participants who take part using a video call should have the option for a digital emotion identification card, timer, and timetable.

This interview schedule is intended for minimally verbal individuals. The interviewer needs to make a picture strip to ask questions and the participant will have a strip to answer or they can use their own communication aid if they have one. Make sure

that the participant has all necessary picture options available to them before starting the interview.

Part 1 - Looking at Photographs

The interviewer will show the participant a series of photographs around certain themes and ask for their thoughts on each one.

Family Gatherings



- What do you see in this picture?
- What are they doing together?
- How are they feeling?
- What language are they speaking?
 - Option given for participants languages
- When do you see your family like this?
 - Options given for weekends, religious and cultural celebrations

Grandparents

NB. Photos of the participants' grandparents should be used here if provided to the interviewer ahead of the interview.



Grandmother examples



Grandfather examples



- Who is in this picture? (shown appropriate symbols)
- What language do/does your grandparent(s) speak with you?
- Where do your relatives live?
 - This question will be primed by parents

Travelling



- Where do your relatives live?
 - This question will be primed by parents
- How do you travel to visit your relatives?
- When was/will you visit them last/next?
- Do you like to visit [relative here]?

School

NB. These are examples - please use age and context appropriate pictures



- What is this picture of?
- What language do you use at school?
- How do you feel at school?
 - Shown emotion pictures

- What is your favourite thing to do at school?
- What do you play at school?
- What do you like to play together with people at school?
 - Give symbol options – this will be previously informed by parents

Speaking Different Languages



- What are these people doing?
- Interviewer will point out that the speech bubbles are in different languages
- Who do you know that speaks more than one language?
- Do you know people who can speak more than one language?

Check-in (5 mins)

Before moving on to the next portion of the interview, ask how the participant is feeling and if they are happy to continue to the next session.

Part 2 - Meal customs - questions primed by parents for appropriate symbols

- What is your favourite dinner?
- At dinner do you all eat the same foods?
- What food do you eat at [special occasion]?
- Who cooks dinner?
- Do you help make dinner?
- Do [siblings names] help make dinner?
- What do you say when it's time for dinner?
- Do [specific relatives names here] eat dinner with you?
 - 'Yes', 'no', 'sometimes'
- If 'yes' - Do they speak X or Y when they are here?
- Do they speak X or Y to you?
- Do they speak X or Y to [siblings name here]?

Check-in (5 mins)

Before moving on to the next portion of the interview, ask how the participant is feeling and if they are happy to continue to the next session. NB: let the participant know how well they're doing at answering all of these questions.

Part 3 - Favourite Belongings 15 mins

The interviewer will ask the participant to show them their favourite belongings

- Show me what you got for [celebration here]
 - Can be birthday or cultural celebration
- Show me a gift from [relative's name here]
- Do your toys have different names?
 - Interviewer may pick up different toys and ask, 'What's this?'
 - If there is a verbal response that is unclear to the interviewer, they will ask the parents later whether this is a vocalisation or the name for the item in a different language.
- Do you talk to your [favourite item here]?
- What do you like to have/play with/hold when you feel happy?
- Or 'Show me what you like have/play with/hold when you feel happy'
 - Will have symbols for favourite items
- What do you like to have/play with/ hold if you are sad?
- Or 'Show me what you like to have/play with/ hold if you are sad?'
- Show me what you like to take with you when you are going on a trip
- Show me what you like to have at bedtime
- Do you like to read books?
- Show me what books you like to read?
- Are your books in X or Y?
- Does [caregiver] read/tell you stories?
- Do they tell you stories in X or Y?

Electronic Devices

- Can you show me your video games?
- Or can you show me your Nintendo switch?
- Or can you show me what games you like to play on your tablet?
- Are your games in X or Y (language)?