Children and Their Advocates: Learning to Speak the Same Language

Children and adults do not speak the same language. It is a simple fact and a major contributor to serious misunderstandings in the courtroom. Join internationally-known forensic linguist Anne Graffam Walker as she unravels the mystery of understanding how children process language. For over 20 years now, Dr. Walker has helped audiences throughout North America and abroad discover some of the most common causes of miscommunication between adults and children, and she has helped hundreds improve their interviewing skills in the courtroom. She will help you improve your child advocacy practice by teaching you how children develop and use their language skills.

Dr. Walker examines the critical areas of our own adult language system and explains how language and cognitive skills in children do not develop at the same rate, leading to these misunderstandings and jeopardizing your case.

There is no back seat in this course! This is a hands-on workshop for the child advocate or family lawyer who wants to improve his/her skills for interviewing children. Join Dr. Walker for a day of interactive training and small-group problem solving so that you can achieve a better understanding of children's linguistic/cognitive capabilities, recognize some of the linguistically inappropriate words and question forms that lead to miscommunications, and enhance your own skills at getting the most accurate information you can when you interview children.

Anne Graffam Walker discusses how—

• Children and adults don’t speak the same “language”
  Explore those differences with her
• Language learning is an uncertain process
• Children are egocentric
• Language and cognition don’t develop at the same rate
• Children do not give narratives the way we do
• Children cannot process complex utterances accurately
• Children’s true awareness of truth and lies can be assessed

Book Available
Course Book (2003-3537) — $69
One copy of Children and Their Advocates: Learning to Speak the Same Language © 2003 PBI is included in your registration.
If you are ordering course materials separately, please allow two weeks after the program for the shipment of books.
Include $4.50 shipping & 6% Pa. Sales tax on all book orders — see enrollment/order form.

Tuition (INCLUDES LUNCH)
Member — Pa., or any co. bar assn. $159
Member admitted after 1/1/99 $139
Nonmember $179
Paralegals attending with an attorney $99
Paralegals attending alone $129
Judges and judicial law clerks $80
(Admitted after 1/1/99)
Maximum CLE credits: 6

Date & Location
Mechanicsburg • Tues., Nov. 11, 2003
PBI Conference Center
5080 Ritter Rd., Rossmoyne Exit, Rt. 15
8:30 am to 4:30 pm; registration begins at 8:00 am

5 SUBSTANTIVE/1 ETHICS*