



About Finding Words

Finding Words utilizes the CornerHouse model to teach question types and expected verbal responses from children. The RATAC protocol can be used to interview children about all forms of maltreatment, as well as other violent crimes they may have witnessed. Because the protocol is semi-structured, there is no set of scripted questions that is asked in every interview. *Finding Words* teaches the use of drawings, anatomical diagrams and anatomical dolls as aids for children to explain their experiences. In addition to completing homework and attending workshops, *Finding Words* students are required to demonstrate their skills. In the last two days of the course, the students are divided into groups and given fictitious reports of child sexual abuse. Working as a team, the students chart out a game plan for the interview. Each student then conducts an interview about the reported abuse and then is critiqued on the use of developmentally and forensically appropriate questions.

Each week long training will be held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth, Georgia. Accommodation are available in the dorms at GPSTC. Meals will be provided Monday through Friday in the GPSTC cafeteria.

Finding Words Georgia is POST certified.

***Finding Words Georgia* is a week long course that will be offered three times in 2009. Teams may apply for one of the following weeks.**

Week 1: May 3-7, 2010
Application Deadline: April 12, 2010

Week 2: August 2-6, 2010
Application Deadline: July 12, 2010

Week 3: September 13-17, 2009
Application Deadline: August 23, 2010



For more information:

Office of the Child Advocate
3312 Northside Drive
Suite D-250
Macon, GA 31210

www.gachildadvocate.org

478-757-2661 or 800-254-2064
Fax: 478-757-2666



Melissa D. Carter
Director

Finding Words Georgia

**Interviewing Children and
Preparing for Court**



Sponsored by:

The Office of the Child Advocate

The Department of Human Resources
Division of Family & Children Services

Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

Finding Words Georgia Application

Name	_____				Title
Agency	_____				
Address	_____		City	State	Zip
Telephone #	_____				Email Address

Circle Your Course Preference:

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Important Note:

If your application is not selected for a particular course offering, you must re-apply for another offering by calling and ask your application be moved to another course.

No applications will be automatically forwarded to the next course offering.

Finding Words is limited to 40 participants per session. Please be aware that this is an intensive course. The workshops are supplemented with homework assignments, which must be completed each night. Each participant will be given a written examination at the end of the course. Participants who fail to attend all workshops, complete homework assignments, or pass the examination will not be awarded a certificate of course completion. Finding Words Georgia supports a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of child abuse cases. Therefore, preference will be given to those who apply as a team with a minimum of a prosecutor, law enforcement and child protective services. Individual applications will also be considered if slots are available. You will be notified by phone or email approximately 2 weeks after the application deadline if you are selected for the class for which you applied. **NOTE: Submission of application does not guarantee acceptance.**

Return application to: Office of the Child Advocate
3312 Northside Drive, Suite D-250
Macon, GA 31210
Fax: 478-757-2666 or 478-471-5310