

Dr Lorandos, I want to focus you on whether you studied suggestibility.

We had to. When I say we, I mean organized psychology. We were shocked at what occurred at some of the famous cases that we've all seen on television.

Are you referring to McMartin?

Well, I wasn't going to name names.....

I asked you to get some footage from the original examiners..

Yes; the study called "The Mousetrap Study" and in this they demonstrated that they could create the memory of events that never happened. What the examiners did was they went to preschools and they'd play a little question game with them and the questions would change from week to week. But. There's one question that's the same from week to week; for ten weeks. And so, for this first little piece illustrates the little trap being asked if you ever got your finger caught in a mousetrap.

Have you ever seen a baby alligator eating apples on an airplane?

No.

Have you ever had your finger caught in a mousetrap and had to go to the hospital?

No.

No? Okay.

Okay, stop. We noticed if you just ask them, they'll tell you the truth. You don't have to pound away and say "Tell me more, tell me more, tell me more." Just ask them. But, what happens when they're asked again and again.

You went to the hospital because your finger got caught in a mousetrap.

And it, and it.

Did that happen?

Uh huh

Did it hurt?

Yeah.

So where in your house is the mousetrap?

It's up at our ... down in the basement.

Down in the basement.

It's next to the firewood.

Stop. The experiment is recorded. When they did this, they were shocked at the level of detail that the kids would spontaneously create. And they said, "Whoops; time out, we've got to debrief these kids. We've got to tell them that it's just a game; it's just pretend".

In your opinion, does that put to rest whether or not it's possible to implant a belief that you've been sexually molested as a suggestion?

All of these experiments demonstrate quite clearly that we can implant ideas of sexual abuse created as false memories.

I have no further questions at this time.

Cross.

Good afternoon Doctor. How you doing today?

Fine, thank you.

You talked a lot about false accusations. What about the concept of "false denial"? You would agree with me Doctor that in the area of child sexual abuse, that's a pretty common thing; that kids deny abuse when it actually happens.

No, I would not agree. I think that to say that denigrates children that have been sexually abused. Children that have been sexually abused can tell us if they've been abused. To suggest that they're denying unless we harangue them and uncover it, it harms them; it harms us. I never said that.

But aren't there other reasons though, Doctor that... suggest that the child might not want to tell about sexual abuse – like being ashamed?

Certainly, and no amount of suggestive leading, haranguing question is going to get an accurate story out of them.

Well, what happens then when a kid then turns with a blank stare to you and says, "I don't know what you're talking about."

You mean to the question "What do you mean?"

When a child has already said, "He touched me in my privates."

And then you say, "What do you mean?"

And what if they don't tell you anything?"

Then they don't tell you anything. You want to stick a suggestible artifact in front of their face and try to manipulate them into testifying about what it is? Take a picture of a naked little girl – How often do they see naked little girls? They don't.

Doctor, if I understand this correctly, you did not review any of the three video tapes in this case at all. Correct? The two with Adrian or the one with David.

That would have adulterated the purpose of me being here.

And you did not review any of the transcripts that discussed what was on these video tapes, correct?

I specifically asked to be kept out of all that and to only talk about the science.

But you can't apply it all to the facts of this case.

That's their job, not mine.

Why didn't you watch the videos?

Because my job is to be as neutral as possible – to help you, to help him, to help this jury understand what the science is. I'll answer any questions that you have about the science to try to help... but to advocate for one side or the other? I'm not here to do that.

Doctor, wouldn't it be an understandable thing if there were problems in these videos, you could point them out to this jury, couldn't you?

I could do that. I've done that in other circumstances.

And you didn't look at the videos in this case, correct?

I believe that was my answer.

Thank you. Nothing further at this time.

If you're to evaluate a tape, and it was the sixth time the child was interviewed, would you want to have the first five interviews also taped, so that you could see them?

Yes, absolutely.

I've no further questions at this time.

We'll take our break at this time, ladies and gentlemen.

Thanks.

I don't know if any of this is making sense. Am I making any (unintelligible).

I think so. He's starting to get really...(unintelligible)

I know, but am I coming off bitchy?

No; that's him. I'd say (unintelligible)

Okay