

## **Procedure for collecting data of mother-child conversations of emotional events**

### References:

Fivush, R. & Wang, Q. (2005). Emotion talk in mother-child conversations of the shared past: The effects of culture, gender, and event valence. *Journal of Cognition and Development*, 6, 4, 489-506. DOI:10.1207/s15327647jcd0604\_3

Wang, Q. & Fivush, R. (2005). Mother-child conversations of emotionally salient events: Exploring the functions of emotional reminiscing in European American and Chinese Families. *Social Development*, 14, 3, 473-495. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9507.2005.00312.x

### **Instructions to interviewers:**

- 1) You meet the mother and the child in their house. Out of the earshot of the child, you help the mother to select events to discuss. You ask the mother to nominate some past events that were emotionally very positive or very negative to the child. Ask the mother:

**“I’d like you to talk with your child about two significant past events you and your child both participated in. Can you think of some events that were emotionally VERY POSITIVE to your child?”**

Following each memory the mother provides, always ask **“What other events can you think of?”** until the mother indicates by speech or gesture that those are all she can think of.

Then ask, **“Now, Can you think of some past events that were emotionally VERY NEGATIVE to your child?”** and **“What other events can you think of?”**

\*The sequence of asking about positive and negative events should be counterbalanced across mother-child pairs.

\*\*Be sure to make brief notes (key words) of each memory the mother provides. Based on those notes, you will fill in the details later, when you are alone.

- 2) Following the event nomination, you ask the mother to select from the nominated memories **an extremely positive event, one of the best things that ever happened to her child, and an extremely stressful event, one of the worst things that ever happened to her child.**

\*The sequence of selecting positive and negative events will be the same as in 1).

3) After the mother has decided about the two events, you tell her, “I will leave the room right now. You and your child can talk as much as you want and your conversation will be tape recorded. **It is important that you talk with your child about the events in as natural a way as possible.** Let me know when you finish your conversation.”

\*The sequence of talking about positive and negative events will be the same as in 1).

4) The mother and the child then sit comfortably in a quiet place in the home with a tape recorder recording their conversation. You will not be present in the room during the mother-child interview, and no time restrictions are placed on the length of their conversation. **You can use the time to fill in the details of the memories the mother told you about earlier.**

5) At last, you give a picture book to the child to thank him/her for his/her participation.

#### **Things you need to pay attention to**

A. Make sure the tape recorder works well before your trip. Always bring a 2<sup>nd</sup>, back-up tape recorder with you. Put the tape recorder between the mother and the child. Test the sound beforehand and make sure the recording is clear enough.

B. Write down the exact date of the mother-child interview.

D. Make notes of anything unusual about the interview.