

Child: Elle Smith
Date of Birth: Nov 4th 2006
Age: 9

Parent/Guardian: Emily Smith (stepmother)
School: Carnarvon Elementary
Grade: 5

Interviewer: Lianne Vroom

Reason for Referral: N/A

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today and for completing the various questionnaires that you received before our meeting. I have reviewed the information you provided on the forms, and I would like to hear more about your concerns about Elle. Your **perspective as a parent** is very important for me in understanding Elle. I want to let you know that the interview may **touch on a lot of feelings**, but we're here for the purpose of **helping your child**. Usually your **first response** to a question can be the right observation, but if **you want to go back** and **explore** the answer further or **change** an answer we can do that. And if **you don't know** the answer to a question **that's ok**. If you need to **take a break at any time**, just let me know.

This interview is part of my evaluation and will be **summarized in my written report**. I want you to know that I only include information that is **relevant** for understanding Elle's functioning and planning appropriate interventions. We can discuss what information will or will not be included at the end of the interview if you like.

Please let me know if you have any **questions at any time**.

Let's take a few minutes to **review your consent** for me to complete the psychoeducational assessment by going through this checklist.

It's important for you to know and understand the purpose & nature of the assessment, the benefits & risks, mutual responsibilities, the alternatives to assessment & consequences of not consenting to the assessment, your ongoing right to refuse or rescind consent, the time limits, and the multiple uses of the assessment.

Purpose & Nature of Assessment

	Investigation into strengths & weaknesses
	Cognitive ability, academic achievement, language & behaviour
	Involves intelligence tests & other testing, rating scales, interviews, observations, history taking , & measuring responses to intervention
	Assessment occurs one-on-one but within school hours
	Written report will be shared with parents & school personnel concerned about the student, & will become a part of the student's school record
	Parents have opportunity to ask questions & make suggestions about the report

	Goal is to gather specific & new information to better understand your child and improve their current functioning or learning.
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Benefits

	May help develop insights into needed changes or develop new strategies, accommodations & adaptations that may be necessary to improve your child's learning
	May help school personnel gain a better understanding of your child's strengths and challenges
	May help school based team develop educational programs to improve success in school
	May lead to a child being diagnosed as having special educational needs . Diagnosis can make it easier to access some additional services that might benefit your child.

Risks

	Not all assessments lead to the possible benefits we discussed
	May lead to diagnosis of learning or language disabilities, developmental disorders, and/or behavioural/emotional disorders that will require follow up treatment or interventions outside the classroom , which can be upsetting
	Assessment results may contribute to a re-evaluation of school or life plans for your child
	If diagnosis leads to your child being identified as a special needs student, it may limit their enrollment in some classrooms or programs
	To minimize unexpected problems it's important that any concerns or questions that develop over the assessment period be mentioned as soon as possible.

Mutual Responsibilities

	I will ensure that a written copy of the assessment is given to the school in a timely manner
	The school is responsible for setting up a meeting to discuss the report with the you, myself, and your child's teachers
	Together we will collaborate to ensure your child is prepared for any changes in routine and is made to feel as comfortable as possible regarding the assessment

Alternatives to Assessment

	Students may receive a limited level of help in school without any additional assessment information
	The decision to assess can be postponed to another time
	The current educational program or placement can be maintained
	If you choose a private assessment can be completed by individuals or agencies not connected to the school

Consequences of Non-Action

	A wait-and-see strategy can be a reasonable choice as other alternatives to a full assessment are implemented & evaluated which may provide new & useful information
	Decisions about educational programs should be made with adequate information
	The absence of psychoeducational information may limit the effectiveness of other actions or delay the implementation of appropriate interventions
	Non-action can delay the goal of understanding and improving your child's current functioning and learning

Ongoing Right to Refuse or Rescind Consent

	You have the right to refuse consent at any time during the assessment
	Just contact myself or the school principal & ask that the assessment be stopped
	I will inform you of any changes in the assessment process and get your consent before implementing any changes

Time Limits

	Your consent for the assessment is time limited & lasts only for the duration of the school year
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Limits of Confidentiality

	All documents & the written report are the property of the school board
	The information within the reports is considered private, confidential, & protected by law
	They may not be disclosed to any person or agency without your specific & written consent
	I am required by law to contact the appropriate agencies if there is a clear risk of harm such as suspected child abuse or if your child poses a danger to themselves or others, or if a court orders the disclosure of the records

Multiple Uses

	Information from the assessment may be used to identify a child as having special educational needs
	Teachers, administrators, or the school based team may use the information to make school placements, educational programs, or provincial funding decisions for your child
	Includes decisions about class composition, provincial examination conditions, & special education support staff hiring

Do you have any questions? Okay, now I'd like to continue by hearing more about your concerns for [child's name].

CONCERNS	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
<p>What concerns you most?</p>	<p>Reading is the most difficult for her. School is not easy for her but she's made a lot of progress since she started working with a tutor these past two years. I worry that going back and forth between our house and her mom's house is going to affect her being able to make friends and keep up with her homework.</p>
<p>When did you first become concerned? How long has it been a problem?</p>	<p>Since grade two when we noticed that she was behind and wasn't reading yet and after the summers it when she comes back from panama sometimes her English isn't very good and she makes mistakes. Her teachers since grade two said that she was behind. we're working on getting her caught up but sometimes she seems to have a hard time remembering.</p>
<p>Can you describe these concerns a little more?</p>	<p>She's pretty slow when reading and I think it's probably not at a grade 5 level. Also back since grade 1 her teachers said that she wasn't really trying her best and had a hard time focusing in class.</p>
<p>And are her teachers still reporting this?</p>	<p>Not really since grade four when she moved to Canarvon elementary. She seems to be doing a lot better in school now since grade 4 and since we got the tutor.</p>
<p>Is there anything else you are concerned about?</p>	<p>She spends the summers in Panama which affects her English and maybe that's why she struggles a bit with reading and writing at school. It's hard for use to do activities with her and make commitments with friends because mom's schedule is all over the place and she doesn't stick to any kind of custody agreement so it's hard to make plans. Mom doesn't want her to play soccer anymore because she thinks that It's just a sport for boys so we had to take Elle out of it because</p>

<p>Has Elle been evaluated or received any help for her difficulties with reading, writing and math?</p> <p>What are Elle's strengths?</p> <p>What do you want to see happen for Elle?</p>	<p>she didn't want to lie to her mom which isn't really fair to her.</p> <p>She's had a tutor for two years now, just once a week. She had pull out support since grade one for English and then in grade two and three for reading.</p> <p>She is very creative and enthusiastic. She has a good attitude and is usually happy and easy-going. She's social and does a good job being polite and speaking with adults. She's usually quite helpful at home and will help with the puppy or trying to help cook or bake something.</p> <p>I want to see her get all around better grades at school and improve her reading and math skills so she can be successful at school when she continues on to high school. I want to see her be independent.</p>
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Now let's discuss how Elle] is doing in school.

SCHOOL FUNCTIONING	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
<p>How is Elle getting along in school?</p> <p>What does Elle like best about school?</p> <p>What does Elle like least about school?</p>	<p>She likes her school and has a lot of friends. She's happy and likes going, doesn't seem concerned that her grades aren't the best.</p> <p>I think she likes just being with her friends and playing with all the other kids. She's very social and we don't have any other kids at home.</p> <p>When she's put on the spot and has to read aloud.</p>

<p>What are Elle's best subjects?</p>	<p>She's doing fine in Science and Socials.</p>
<p>What are Elle's worst subjects?</p>	<p>The most difficult reading. She is making progress with math I think because we worked with her quite a bit on her math facts and learning the multiplication tables but she still struggles with remembering those too. We've been working on her reading a lot recently and with her tutor as well and her teacher said that he's noticed that she's been making improvement, but that was at the end of last year and we didn't do any work with her over the summer because she was at her grandparents and I don't know how much they do with her really and it would be in Spanish.</p>
<p>What are her grades like?</p>	<p>Her grades are mostly all B's now with the exception of reading she has a C+. She was approaching expectations on her grade 2 and 3 report cards though in reading writing and math.</p>
<p>How well does Elle learn things?</p>	<p>It takes her a really long time and even though we've practiced something over and over again, she'll forget it the next day and we'll have to go over it again. Maybe she's just not listening though.</p>
<p>Does Elle seem to understand things that are said to him/her?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Is Elle quick or slow to catch on to things?</p>	<p>Depends. In social situations she's very quick and is quite good at figuring people out, but when it comes to math and learning the time tables, she's very slow and she was slow to learn how to read and sound out words.</p>
<p>Does Elle stick with tasks that he/she is trying to learn?</p>	<p>Not really, things kind of lose their novelty and she'll get tired of trying and move on if it isn't easy for her.</p>
<p>How does Elle feel about his/her</p>	<p>She's not really concerned about it. Good I</p>

schoolwork?

guess. She has homework every night and it usually takes around 45 minutes to an hour.

His/her homework?

She'll do her homework with us at the kitchen table. She usually needs some help with it like understanding the math problems or looking things up on the computer. It's usually her dad who helps her which goes a lot better than if it's me or her mom apparently. She has a really good relationship with her dad and she'll listen to him.

How much homework does she/he have?

When & where does Elle usually do homework?

Does she/he have any trouble with homework?

How long does homework typically take?

Does she/he get help with homework? *If yes, how does that work out?*

She likes her teacher this year, she says he's really nice. She is close to a lot of girls in her class and her friends are very important to her.

How does your child get along with his/her teacher(s)? Is there anyone at school who is important to him/her?

Are you generally satisfied with Elle's achievement in school? *If no, tell me what you're not satisfied with...*

I think that we're happy with the progress she has made since grade two but we still think she could be doing a lot better but she needs some consistent discipline and motivation to want to get better.

Does Elle have any learning problems? *If yes, what kind of learning problems?*

I think she's having learning problems because her schooling was interrupted when she was young to go to panama with her mom and then because she changed schools a few times things weren't really consistent for her. Because she speaks in Spanish with her mom and grandparents she struggled with reading and spelling in English and she just wasn't really getting that much help at the time. I think everything is just more settled now and we have more of a routine so it seems a lot easier to help her.

Why do you think he/she is having learning problems?

What has been done to address these problems?

I know she was being pulled out for reading in grade two and three but she isn't anymore. I don't think it was enough

Has Elle ever received special help at

<p>school? <i>If yes, tell me more about that: what kind of help? How often? Do you think this is enough?.</i></p>	<p>because she still needs a lot of help and especially in math and that wasn't addressed at all.</p>
<p>Has Elle ever been retained or held back a grade? <i>If yes, when? For what reason? How did they feel? How did you feel?</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Do you have any other school concerns?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>What else would you like to have happen for Elle at school?</p>	<p>I would like her grades to improve and for her to be able to complete her homework more independently.</p>

Let's move on to talking about Elle's behaviour and emotions.

BEHAVIOURAL/EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
<p>Does Elle have trouble paying attention?</p>	<p>I don't see it at home because she's always watching TV and stays focused on that for a long time. She can stay focused on you if you're talking to her she's fine and her teachers don't really say that she can't pay attention anymore it was more when she was little and just adjusting after being at school in Panama I think.</p>
<p>Does Elle have trouble staying with one activity?</p>	<p>No not really, but she's usually pretty absorbed in her electronics or tv or movies.</p>
<p>What kind of self-control does Elle have?</p>	<p>Good. Sometimes she'll say things without thinking but she's usually pretty good. She doesn't like to wait for things though, she'll get impatient.</p>
<p>How well does Elle follow directions?</p>	<p>She listens pretty well and will usually do what you ask her to do, just needs to be reminded.</p>
<p>Does Elle get frustrated easily?</p>	<p></p>
<p>Does Elle get upset by abrupt changes?</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>Are Elle's emotional responses unpredictable?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Does it take Elle a long time to warm up to new situations or new people?</p>	<p>No she's very social and will usually be nice and polite to new people right away. A little nervous when showing up to something new for the first time, like her tennis lesson and dad has to stay for the entire lesson.</p>
<p>Tell me about Elle's activity level.</p>	<p>She's quite calm, likes to watch TV and movies or play on her ipad but when we've organized an activity or she had soccer, then she's happy to go and be active.</p>
<p>Is Elle impulsive? <i>If yes, tell me about this impulsiveness.</i></p>	<p>Not really, no.</p>
<p>How does Elle feel about himself/herself?</p>	<p>She has quite a bit of confidence and seems happy with herself most of the time.</p>
<p>How does Elle behave when faced with a difficult problem?</p>	<p>She doesn't cry easily and usually just asks her dad for help.</p>
<p>Does your child seem unusually anxious or worried about things? <i>If yes, tell me more about that.</i></p>	<p>No she is usually happy and only worries about things like not knowing her schedule of when she is going to her moms and what she might be "missing out on" when she's away in Panama.</p>
<p>Has Elle ever seemed very sad or depressed for a long period of time? <i>If yes, tell me more about that.</i></p>	<p>Not really no she's a pretty happy kid. She will get a little sad before she goes away to visit her grandparents but then generally adjusts and seems happy when she's there.</p>
<p>Does Elle have any behaviour or emotional problems at school? <i>If yes, what kind? Where? When? For how long? How often? What usually happens at school? What has been done to address these problems?</i></p>	<p>Her teachers say that she's very social at school and so sometimes not listening and so sometimes she doesn't know what to do for her homework but other than that no real big problems no.</p>
<p>What do you think is most important to</p>	<p>Probably her reading and then math, she</p>

address now?	needs to practice her multiplication tables and just keep practicing reading so she gets a little faster and more confident. I don't think she's found a book series that she really connects with.
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Now I'd like you to tell me about Elle's social relationships.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONING	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
How many close friends does Elle have? Do you think that is enough? How do you feel about his/her choice of friends? How does Elle get along with his/her friends? Do other kids come to your house to play? Does Elle go to other kid's houses?	She has about 6 close friends at her school and she seems really happy there. She likes the girls and a few of the boys and gets invited to their birthday parties. I think they're good kids they have nice families. We usually only have her cousins over to play because the other kids live in Kerrisdale which is close to dad's work but far from us.
Does Elle have any problems getting along with other kids? <i>If yes, tell me more about that.</i>	No she gets along well with other kids and adults.

Now I'd like to talk about Elle's medical and developmental history.

MEDICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, & FAMILY HISTORY	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
Does Elle take any medications? <i>If yes, please describe (what for, name, dose, purpose, effect, doctor)</i>	No
Has Elle experienced any severe illnesses, accidents, operations, or medical problems? <i>If yes, please describe (type, age, treatment, doctor).</i>	No
Does Elle have any allergies? <i>If yes, describe.</i>	No
Are you concerned about any aspect of Elle's health?	It's difficult to get her to eat healthy foods and she eats a lot of junk food and likes sweets.
Does Elle eat well? Sleep well?	I think she must be growing because she can easily sleep for ten hours and still say

<p>Were there any problems or issues with the pregnancy? Birth? Newborn period? Medications? Smoking or drinking alcohol? Stress?</p> <p>Have you noticed any problems in Elle's development? <i>If yes, please describe.</i></p> <p>Were any of the following difficult or slow to develop for Elle?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Speaking • Toilet training • Motor control? (scissors, etc.) • Motor coordination? (jump, skip, run) • Reading • Writing <p>Have any members of the family had any difficulties at school?</p> <p>Has any relative of Elle have any of the following problems?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic diseases (diabetes) • Mental illnesses • Neurological disease (seizures) • Mental retardation • Learning problems • Behaviour problems • Other problems? 	<p>she's tired on the weekends.</p> <p>Not that I know of. I know the birth was a c-section and she was born on time.</p> <p>No, she's tall and I think that she'll go through puberty early, she's more developed than I was at her age for sure and I think she'll be an early bloomer.</p> <p>Nothing that I know of except for her reading, writing, math and then her speaking in English because she spoke only Spanish for her first few years.</p> <p>Not that I know of.</p> <p>Not that I know of.</p>
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Now I would like to talk about Elle's family relations and home situation.

FAMILY RELATIONS & HOME SITUATION	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
Tell me about the family dynamic.	Well the side of her family that I know the best is from Nanaimo. She has two cousins

Is there anything about your home or living situation that is a problem for you or the family (work situation, financial problems, etc.)?

that we're really close with and she see's her grandparents from Nanaimo a lot.

It is complicated because Elle has to manage going between our house and her mom's house. The change in routine is hard for her I think and she's s changed schools quite a few times. The relationship between Elle's dad and Elle's mom is civil but not great and Elle has to get caught between that. They don't always agree on certain things, like Elle's mom doesn't want her to play soccer, she doesn't think it's something that girls should do, but then we don't agree with that and since we are the ones taking her and driving her to all the games and practices, we kind of just wanted to keep her in it, but that's hard for Elle because she doesn't want to lie to her mom and so she's not going to be in soccer anymore.

How does Elle get along with members of the family in your home? (father, mother, siblings, grandparents, stepparents, etc.)

We have a good relationship. No fights. She's very close with her grandparents as well as my parents, her aunts and uncles and cousins as well as her family in Panama.

Have there been any recent major changes or stresses in your family?

Since her dad and I got married we moved to a new house, which we renovated and so that was a change. I guess us getting married in general too is a pretty big change but I've been around since she was three so it was a somewhat easy transition I think for her.

Has anything happened to Elle that was very upsetting to him/her?

Her great grandma just passed away and she was close with her even though she had dementia and was in her nineties.

What are the rules & expectations about behaviour in your home?

We just got a dog, which she is really happy about but she has to help feed her and walk her and when we're out on a walk she has to help pick up after her.

<p>What kind of discipline procedures are used in your home?</p>	<p>Mainly just take away her ipad if she hasn't done her homework but it's not usually needed.</p>
<p>What happens when Elle does something good or special?</p>	<p>It's usually a trip to dairy queen to celebrate or a facetime conversation with Grandma and Grandpa in Nanaimo to tell them. We might have her cousins and aunt and uncle over for dinner.</p>
<p>Does Elle have any special chores or jobs at home?</p>	<p>She has to get up early to go to daycare before school when Daryl goes to work. She stays at school late until Darryl picks up after work. On the weekends she does tennis lessons, gymnastics and up until recently she did soccer too.</p>
<p>Tell me about Elle's daily activities and routines.</p>	

I'd like to hear a little about Elle's interests and hobbies.

CHILD INTERESTS & HOBBIES	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
<p>What does Elle do in his/her spare time?</p>	<p>She mostly likes to watch movies and music videos. She likes walking the new puppy and playing on her ipad.</p>
<p>Is Elle involved in any sports or extracurricular activities? <i>Tell me about that.</i></p>	<p>Tennis, gymnastics and soccer. Her mom also had her in musical theater and acting lessons.</p>
<p>What activities does Elle like the most? The least?</p>	

I have just a few general questions left.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS	RESPONSES/COMMENTS
<p>Overall what do you see as Elle's strong points?</p>	<p>Her outgoing personality and her creative imagination. She's also very kind and caring and tries to be helpful.</p>
<p>And overall, what do you see as Elle's weak points?</p>	<p>Reading and sometimes her memory in regards to math and organizing. Being independent with her homework and doing her chores when asked.</p>

Is there any other information about Elle you think I should know?

What do you want from the assessment?

Do you have any questions at this point?

No she's a good kid we're really lucky. Just home that she stays this way as a teenager! Fingers crossed.

SUMMARY

I just want to briefly review what we discussed...

- Current functioning
- Major problem areas
- Competencies & strengths
- Relevant circumstances

Do you have any **concerns about reporting any of the information** we discussed today?

You may go home and **rethink** some of your answers, if you want to **change anything** or **discuss anything** further you can **email or call me**.

From here I will **go ahead with the assessment**, and either the school or I will **contact you for our meeting** to discuss the results and recommendations for your child.

Thank you for coming today and if you have **any other questions please call me**.