How much can abused children tell us about their experiences?

It was long assumed that children were not competent to provide reliable information in forensic contexts, even about criminal incidents of which they had been victims. Prompted by notorious cases in the 1980s in which numerous young children were allegedly victimised, however, researchers have since shown that children’s testimony can be reliable, although its quality varies depending on a number of factors, including features of the circumstances in which the information was elicited. In this presentation, these factors will be described, and the optimal ways of interviewing young alleged victims will be described.