CHAPTER 2

Method

Participants

Twenty-three adolescent boys (16 Caucasians and 7 African-Americans) from the Stoneybranch Boy’s Ranch (SBR), diagnosed with CD and ranging in age from 8-16 ($M = 12.57$), constituted our CD group for study. Twenty-three boys (12 Caucasians, 9 African-Americans, and 2 Hispanics) from Stoneybranch Independent School District (SISD), with no history of significant behavioral problems and ranging in age from 10-12 ($M = 10.61$), served as the adolescent control group for the study.

Materials

Video Clips. Two video clips, approximately five minutes in length each, were used for the study. One clip (i.e., Intimate Counselor) portrayed a counselor who focused on the boy’s feelings (e.g., feeling frightened, alone, and needing to be loved) while the other clip portrayed a counselor who focused on the boy’s need for overt behavior change (i.e., Distant Counselor). In both clips, the counselor was speaking to a male teen of approximately the same age as the participants. A male counselor was chosen for each clip in order to avoid potential effects produced by opposite-gender interaction. The males who portrayed the counselors were counselors/evaluators who have worked with
teens. The video was filmed from behind the head of the teen and participants were told that the audio of the teen’s responses was erased for confidentiality reasons. The purpose of the video procedure and the perspective presented was to facilitate participants’ identification with the teen being interviewed so that they could easily imagine their own reactions to the counselor’s questions and comments. Counselor scripts for the video clips are presented in Appendix A.

Counselor Rating Form. After viewing each clip, participant’s responses to the counselor portrayed in the clip were assessed with an eight-item questionnaire pertaining to the effectiveness of the counselor. The counselor evaluation addressed such issues as how close the participant felt to the counselor and how honest the participant felt the counselor was. Participants responded to the items using a 6-point Likert scale questionnaire (1 = Disagree Very Strongly, 6 = Agree Very Strongly). A total rating score for the eight-item questionnaire was calculated for both the Distant Counselor and the Intimate Counselor ratings. The Counselor Rating Form is presented in Appendix B.

Procedure

The consent procedure prior to participation was a follows. For participants from SBR, consent was given by Mr. George Johns, B.S., LCCA, Executive Director. Since the parents of most boys at SBR have relinquished responsibility to the facility, this is standard procedure. Mr. Johns gave permission only after he reviewed and approved our research proposal and the rationale for our procedure.