The Investigation puzzle

Have you ever heard the saying “all the pieces of the puzzle are falling into place”? That would be something an investigator would say when he is investigating an incident and identifying what exactly happened or getting closer to making an arrest or concluding the investigation.

When an investigator starts an investigation it is a process, not always the same steps or sequence but a step by step process to finalize the investigation to the best of his abilities. The process would start with what you have on hand, or what is the complaint or information you received to work with. The same would apply with a puzzle, as the box would say it’s a 10, 50- or 100-piece puzzle and a picture would be provided, so you have a framework or an idea as to what the picture must look like at the end of the day.

Investigation and the processes followed is the same as building a puzzle, you have an idea of what the investigation entails as your complainant would provide a detailed statement setting out the background and Modus operandi of what happened, in other words, a hypothesis (what the picture could or should look like) would be formed.

Not everybody can be good at building puzzles, and so would not everybody be good at investigating a specific case. With that said, what skills would you need to be a great puzzle builder? http://www.learning4kids.net/whypuzzlesaresoimportantforkidslearning dated 13/05/2019 state that to be able to and the benefit of building puzzles would be to develop the following skill sets:

- Cognitive Skills,
- Problem-Solving skills,
- Fine motoring Development,
- Social, and
- Self Esteem.

On the other hand, the skills to be an effective investigator according to http://woman.thenest.com>skills.qualitysnecessarytobeaneffectiveinvestigator by Maureen Malone is as follows:

- Communication and interviewing skills,
- Control emotions,
- Honesty and ethics,
- Technical skills and knowledge,
- Knowledge of the law,
- Critical thinking and problem solving,
- Research skills, and
- Writing.

The question remains, what is the difference between the two skill sets besides the one would be the attributes required when working with people, and the other one to solve a problem.

Building a puzzle and solving a specific crime or incident would be a step by step process followed, by and using the different skills sets required to solve the crime, or get a complete picture (of the puzzle, or of what transpired during the incident or crime).
Starting the puzzle would be to establish the corners and outline and frame of the picture and starting the investigation would be to form a hypothesis of what transpired and identify the key aspects to initiate the investigation. Every piece of evidence and information that would assist in the investigation or direct the investigator to a next witness or piece of evidence would be a piece of the puzzle. As the investigation unfolds the picture would form certain characters or features of the picture you are trying to complete, and the evidence would provide clarity and confirmation of the hypothesis formed to confirm or dismiss the original hypothesis.

Certain puzzle pieces with the same colours or layout would seem perfect to complete a specific section of the puzzle, but it would just not fit no matter what way it is turned and placed. With the investigation process, it would be the same where certain pieces of evidence or testimony would seem to be the missing piece to possibly identify the perpetrator, but it would just not answer all the questions to be the perfect or final fit that you need. The evidence must be tested, and the puzzle piece must be turned and be tested to ensure it is the perfect fit.

Once the picture is complete, and all the puzzle pieces fit then only would you be done. Once every piece of the investigation puzzle is found, fitted and put in place then only would the case or investigation be complete. In normal terminology, the investigation would be finished or completed and then presented to a court or the right forum to decide on the case presented.

The complexity of any investigation depends on the case, and no two cases would be the same, with the same application when completing a puzzle whether it is a 10, 50 or 500 pieces puzzle the principles remain the same.

Build the borders and work the way inward until you have a complete picture. In the investigation scenario, one would get the evidence from the complainant and work your way back until you have unravelled the incident or crime and have a complete picture or modus operandi of what transpired. Certain investigations would require some external skills or resources to be able to complete the puzzle or investigation.

Use whatever skills or resources you need to be able to provide you a complete picture and take the time to make every piece fit. Goodluck and enjoy the puzzle.