

Social Development in the Family (cont'd)

Chapter 11

Phases in Early Attachment Development

Phase	Age	Observed Behavior
1) Preattachment	0-2 months	Indiscriminate social responsiveness
2) Attachment in the making	2-7 months	Recognition of familiar people
3) Clear-cut attachment	7-24 months	Separation protest; wariness of strangers; intentional communication
4) Goal-corrected partnership	24+ months	Relationships more two sided; children understand parents' needs

Attachment Phases: Preattachment

- ▶ 0-2 months
- ▶ Development of repertoire of signals in order to elicit attachment behaviors
 - ▶ Attachment behaviors: behaviors that help provide comfort and security by bringing the baby close to a caregiver
 - ▶ Crying
 - ▶ Smiling
- ▶ Characterized by indiscriminate social responding



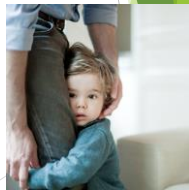
Attachment Phases: Attachment in the Making

- ▶ 2-7 months
- ▶ Characterized by increasing recognition and preference for primary caregivers
- ▶ During this stage, infants learn:
 - ▶ **Reciprocity:** turn-taking during social interactions
 - ▶ **Effectance:** infant's behavior can affect other's behavior in a consistent and predictable fashion
 - ▶ **Trust:** infant can rely on the caregiver responding when signaled



Attachment Phases: Clear-Cut Attachment

- ▶ 7-24 months
- ▶ Show clear preference for certain people
 - ▶ Attachment figures
- ▶ Characterized by increased proximity seeking, wariness of strangers, and separation protest



Attachment Phases: Goal-Corrected Partnership

- ▶ 24 months+
- ▶ Characterized by decrease in behaviors seen during previous phase
- ▶ Children develop **internal working model** of relationship between themselves and caregiver which influences other future relationships



Attachment Meaning and Figures

- ▶ Usually form first attachment by 12 months of age
- ▶ Seek contact and proximity with attachment figure
- ▶ **Separation distress or protest** - An infant's distress reaction to being separated from the attachment figure which typically peaks at about 15 months of age
- ▶ Multiple attachments are common
 - ▶ Mother - primary
 - ▶ Father
 - ▶ Grandparent
 - ▶ Sibling



Attachment Behavioral Systems

- ▶ **Four Behavior Systems:**
 - ▶ **Attachment behavior system:** controls or coordinates infant activities that most clearly and obviously related to attaining an maintaining proximity or contact with the attachment figure
 - ▶ **Fear/wariness system:** coordinates avoidant, wary, or fearful responses to strangers
 - ▶ **Affiliative system:** displaying of social behaviors to a stranger at a distance, such as smiling and vocalizing
 - ▶ **Exploratory behavior system:** mediates contact with the physical or nonsocial environment

Theories of Attachment

Ethological Theory - Ainsworth

- ▶ Bowlby's student
- ▶ Developed task to systematically study infant attachment - gold standard
 - ▶ **Strange Situation Paradigm:** research scenario in which caregiver and child are separated and reunited in increasingly stressful episodes so that investigators can assess the nature and quality of the parent-infant attachment relationship
- ▶ Developed classification system for attachment in infancy/toddlerhood based upon behaviors observed during the Strange Situation



Ainsworth's Strange Situation Paradigm

EPISODE	EVENTS	ATTACHMENT BEHAVIOR OBSERVED
1	Researcher introduces parent and baby to playroom and then leaves.	
2	Parent is seated while baby plays with toys.	Parent as a secure base
3	Stranger enters, is seated, and talks to parent.	Reaction to unfamiliar adult
4	Parent leaves room. Stranger responds to baby and offers comfort if baby is upset.	Separation anxiety
5	Parent returns, greets baby, and offers comfort if necessary. Stranger leaves room.	Reaction to reunion
6	Parent leaves room.	Separation anxiety
7	Stranger enters room and offers comfort.	Ability to be soothed by stranger
8	Parent returns, greets baby, offers comfort if necessary, and tries to reinstate baby in toys.	Reaction to reunion

Note: Episode 1 lasts about 30 seconds; each of the remaining episodes lasts about 3 minutes. Separation episodes are cut short if the baby becomes very upset. Reunion episodes are extended if the baby needs more time to calm down and return to play.

Attachment Styles

Defined by Ainsworth:

- ▶ **Secure Attachment (Type B)** - 60-65%
 - ▶ Babies are able to explore novel environments, are minimally disturbed by brief separations from their mother, and are quickly comforted by her when she returns
- ▶ **Insecure-Avoidant (Type A)** - 20%
 - ▶ Babies seem not to be bothered by their mother's brief absences but specifically avoid her when she returns, sometimes becoming visibly upset
- ▶ **Insecure-Ambivalent (Type C)** - 10-15%
 - ▶ Babies tend to become very upset at the departure of their mother and exhibit inconsistent behavior on the mother's return, sometimes seeking contact, sometimes pushing their mother away.

Defined by Mary Main:

- ▶ **Insecure-Disorganized (Type D)** -- 5-10%
 - ▶ Babies seem disorganized and disoriented when reunited with their mother after a separation

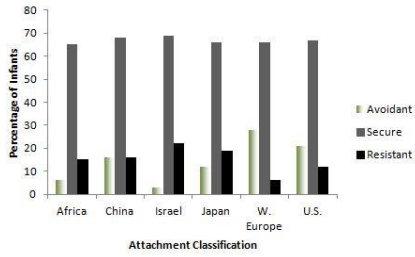
Attachment Style & Maternal Behavior

- ▶ **Secure attachment** - sensitive and responsive parenting
- ▶ **Insecure-avoidant** - intrusive and rejecting parenting
- ▶ **Insecure-ambivalent** - unaffectionate and inconsistent parenting
- ▶ **Insecure-disorganized** - neglectful or abusive parenting



Cross-Cultural Research on Attachment

- Cultures vary on percentages of attachment classifications



Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s608077nENI>
