

Caregiver-infant interactions

Reciprocity –Mother-infant interaction is reciprocal in that both infant and mother respond to each other's signals and each elicits a response from the other.

Interactional synchrony - mother and infant reflect both the actions and emotions of the other and do this in a coordinated way. Two-week-old babies imitated facial expressions.

☺controlled observations-filmed from different angles ☺is the imitation of signals conscious and deliberate? ☺ Does not tell us the purpose of synchrony and reciprocity

Animal research

Lorenz = Geese separated from natural mother. When hatched in incubator they followed Lorenz. Didn't recognize natural mother. Imprinting. Critical period 2 days.

☺ generalising– humans don't imprint ☺ imprinting is not as permanent as Lorenz suggested.

Harlow = Monkeys - cloth/wire mother. All monkeys spent up to 22h on the comfort mother, only leaving to feed. Fear = comfort from cloth mother. Early maternal deprivation had a permanent effect – more aggressive, less sociable, bred less.

☺ ethical issues – species similar to humans. ☺ applications – social workers and caring for captive monkeys ☺ developed understanding of comfort in human mother-infant attachment.

Strange situation

Controlled observation in USA – 8 episodes, 9-18month. Seven episodes. Assessed; proximity seeking, exploration, stranger anxiety, separation anxiety, response to reunion.

- **Secure(B)** – 70%- moderate separation distress and stranger anxiety. Accepts reunion comfort.
- **Avoidant (A)** – 15%-low separation and stranger anxiety. No reunion comfort needed
- **Resistant (C)** –15%- high stranger/ separation anxiety, resists reunion comfort.

☺validity – attachment type is strongly predictive of later development☺94% inter-rater reliability ☺ culture bound ☺atypical attachment discovered

Cultural variations

Van Ijzendoorn - Meta-analysis – 32 studies, 8 countries. Secure is most common. Insecure resistant – least common (3%Britain,30% Israel), avoidant most common in Germany. Variations within culture.

Jin et al - Korea. Most infants secure. One child avoidant. Similar to Japan. Child rearing important.

☺large sample -internal validity. ☺comparisons between countries not culture ☺ imposed etc.

Role of the father

Grossman - mothers (not fathers) quality of relationship influenced child's adult relationships. Quality of fathers play influenced attachments. Fathers have more role of play, than nurture. primary caregiver fathers spend more time smiling, imitating and holding infants than secondary caregiver fathers.

Fathers given more rights over children (shared maternity leave)
Eval: Oestrogen creates higher level of nurturing – women bio pre-disposed to be primary attachment figure. Children growing up in single or same-sex parent families do not develop differently

Learning theory

Classical conditioning- associating the caregiver with food forms an attachment. Operant – negative reinforcement by feeding infants to remove discomfort. Drive reduction – hunger primary drive – attachment is secondary drive. ☺ Harlow's research – comfort important. ☺ Schaffer – primary attachment to mother, regardless of who fed them ☺ ignores other factors – reciprocity and interactional synchrony. ☺ social learning theory – newer theory.

MDH – Bowlby

Deprivation –. losing an element of care during an extended separation. First 30 months = critical period. Long term effects: Intellectual – abnormally low IQ. Emotional – affectionless psychopathy – inability to experience guilt or strong emotion for others. 44thieves – 14/44 thieves had affectionless psychopathy. 12 of these had prolonged separation in first 2 years. Eval – research suggests damage is not inevitable (sensitive not critical period)/evidence against (other factors?)/research is flawed (poor after care and bias)

Early attachment on adults

Hazan and Shaver – assessed Internal working model. Love quiz in local newspaper, 620 response. 56% secure/25% avoidant/18 resistant. Pos correlation between attachment type and love experience. Secure-longer, happier relationships. Bailey – mother-baby attachment assessed using the strange situation and mother-own mother attachment was assessed using adult attachment interview. Majority had the same type of attachment to babies as their own mothers.
☺ Zimmerman found very little relationship between quality of infant and adolescent attachment. ☺ self-report technique and memory of P's ☺ association does not mean causation.

Bowlby monotropic theory

Evolutionary – adaptive and innate. Monotropy – great emphasis on a child's attachment to one caregiver. Social releasers – activate adult attachment system e.g. crying, smiling. Internal working model – blueprint of what relationships are like. Influence adult relationships. Sensitive period – harder to form attachment after the age of two.

☺Bailey – Mothers with poor attachments to own parents more likely to have children classified at poor. ☺monotropy – socially sensitive ☺temperament ☺

Institutionalisation – Romanian orphans

ERA – 165 Romanian orphans adopted in Britain. Adopted before 6 months = secure. After 6 months = disinhibited attachment (attention seeking, clinginess). Mean IQ before 6 month = 102, 6 months-2year = IQ 86 , and after 2 yr = 77. Bucharest project – assessed attachment in 95 children ages 12-31 month who lived in institutional care. 19% securely attached, 65% disorganised attachment. ☺ improvements to orphanages, key worker ☺ few extraneous variables ☺ Romanian orphanages conditions are bad ☺ not followed up in adulthood.

Schaffer and Emerson

Research: 60 babies. 50% of babies showed signs of separation anxiety towards a particular adult (most sensitive carer) 40 weeks – 80% specific attachment and 30% multiple.

☺external validity -carried out in P's own homes ☺ longitudinal – same children followed up/ ☺ sample – family from same district and social class.

1. Asocial stage: behavior towards non-human objects and humans are similar. Happy around humans.
2. Indiscriminate attachment – 2-7 month. Preference for people. Recognize and prefer familiar adults. Behavior not different towards any one person
3. Specific attachment – 7 month. Stranger anxiety develops. specific attachment – usually the mother.
4. Multiple attachment – secondary attachments

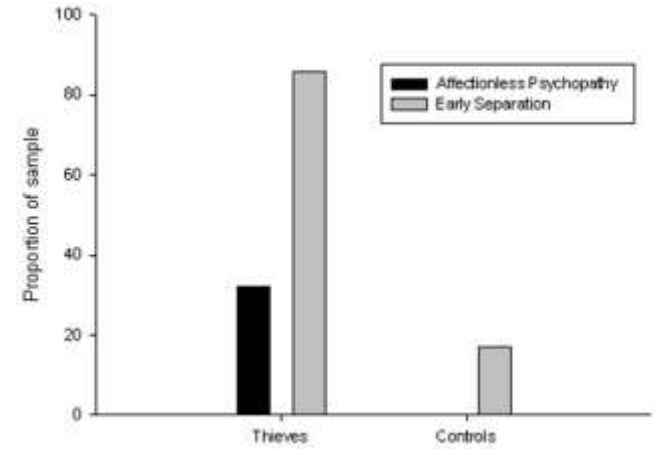
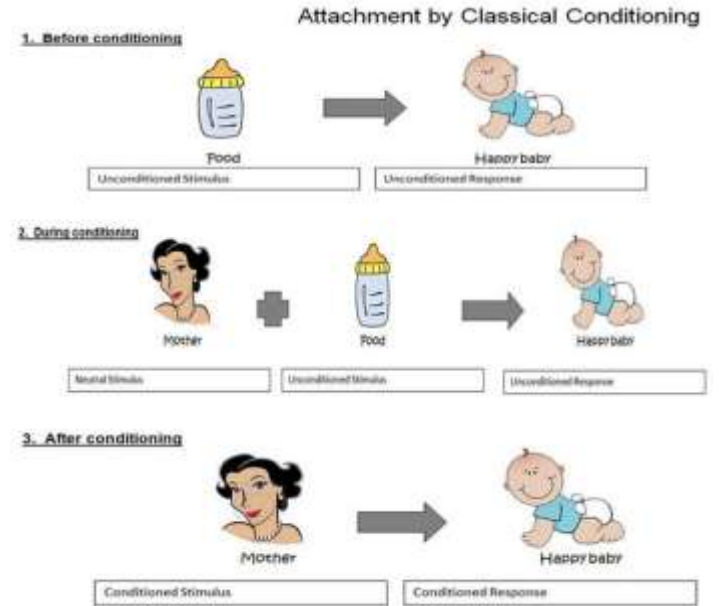
☺problems measuring multiple attachment – crying doesn't mean attachment ☺ problem studying asocial stage – babies are immobile, little observable behavior. ☺conflicting evidence –other cultures multiple attachments can develop earlier.



Fig. 1. Sample photographs from videotape recordings of 2- to 3-week-old infants imitating (a) tongue protrusion, (b) mouth opening, and (c) lip protrusion demonstrated by an adult experimenter.



Attachment



Episode	Events	Aspect of Attachment Behavior Assessed
1	Experimenter introduces caregiver and infant to the unfamiliar room, shows parent where to sit and shows baby toys, then leaves.	None
2	Caregiver and child are alone; caregiver is told not to initiate interaction but to respond to baby as appropriate.	Exploration and use of parent as a secure base
3	Stranger enters and is seated quietly for 1 minute, then talks to caregiver for 1 minute, then tries to interact with the baby for 1 minute.	Reaction to the stranger
4	Mother leaves child alone with the stranger, who lets baby play but offers comfort if needed. Segment is shortened if the baby becomes too distressed.	Separation distress and reaction to stranger's comforting
5	Caregiver calls to baby from outside door, enters the room, and pauses by the door. Stranger leaves. Caregiver lets infant play or may comfort infant if distressed.	Reaction to reunion with parent
6	Parent leaves infant alone in the room. Segment is ended if infant is too distressed.	Separation distress
7	Stranger enters room, greets infant, and pauses. She sits or comforts infant if the infant is upset. Segment is ended if the infant is very upset.	Ability to be soothed by stranger
8	Caregiver calls from outside the door, enters and greets infant and pauses. Caregiver sits if infant is not upset but may provide comfort if infant is distressed. Caregiver allows infant to return to play if interested.	Reaction to reunion