

Matching Activity

Secure attachment

Care-seeking behaviours

Stereotypes on return such as freezing or rocking. Lack of coherent attachment strategy shown by contradictory, disoriented behaviours such as approaching but with the back turned.

Care-giving behaviours

Frightened or frightening behaviour, intrusiveness, withdrawal, negativity, role confusion, affective communication errors and maltreatment.

Avoidant attachment

Care-Seeking Behaviours

Unable to use caregiver as a secure base, seeking proximity before separation occurs. Distressed on separation with ambivalence, anger, reluctance to warm to caregiver and return to play on return. Preoccupied with caregiver's availability, seeking contact but resisting angrily when it is achieved. Not easily calmed by a stranger.

Care-giving behaviours

Inconsistent between appropriate and neglectful responses.

Ambivalent attachment

Care-Seeking Behaviours

Uses caregiver as a secure base for exploration. Protests caregiver's departure and seeks proximity and comfort on return, returning to exploration. May be comforted by the stranger but shows clear preference for the caregiver.

Care-giving behaviours

Responds appropriately, promptly and consistently to needs.

Disorganised attachment

Care-Seeking Behaviours

Little affective sharing in play. Little or no distress on departure, little or no visible response to return, ignoring or turning away with no effort to maintain contact if picked up. Treats the stranger similarly to the caregiver

Care-giving behaviours

Little or no response to distressed child. Discourages crying and encourages independence.