

The Development of Attachments



This activity will help you to:

- Understand and recall how attachments develop in the months after birth*
- Understand and recall the research on which this knowledge is based*
- Read and summarise complex psychological information*

Development of Attachments

Children are assumed to enter the world without any attachments. However, by the end of their first year, the emotional bonds that children have with others can be clearly discerned in their behaviour. Developmental psychologists have found that there is an orderly, predictable sequence in the way their attachments start to appear.

What You Need To Do...

Working in pairs or threes, make a poster describing the development of attachments. Before you begin, you must find out the relevant information. Using your textbook and the other information available, read and make notes on the following questions:

- When do attachments form?
- How do the child's sociable tendencies change over the first year of life?
- Which people is the child most likely to form an attachment to?
- What influences its choice of attachment figures?

You will come across a study by Shaffer & Emerson (1964) whilst doing your research. Make sure you read about this study as its findings help to answer the questions above.

When making your poster...

- You must** include summary information that answers the questions above
- You should** use images and colour to illustrate the information and make it visually attractive

However, you must not...

- Overload your poster with information
- Copy directly from any sources
- Start working on the decoration before you have written the psychological content