

Attachment: Mary Ainsworth

Secure Attachment: The child will explore freely while the caregiver is present, will engage with strangers, will be visibly upset when the parent departs, and happy to see the parent return. The child will not engage with the stranger if the caregiver is not in the room. The child will seek to make contact with the parent when they return.

Anxious-Ambivalent Insecure Attachment: The child will be nervous about independent exploration and strangers, even when the parent is present. When the caregiver departs, the child is extremely distressed. The child will be unsure and hesitant when the parent returns. They will seek to remain close to the caregiver, but will be resentful and also resistant when the caregiver initiates attention.

Anxious-Avoidant Insecure Attachment: The child will stay away from or ignore the caregiver and show little emotion when the caregiver departs or returns. The child will not explore very much, regardless of who is present. Strangers will not be treated very differently from the caregiver.

Critique

Many critics feel that cultural variations may impact attachment styles.

Directions: For each of the situations listed below, determine which type of attachment style each respective child is demonstrating.

Situations:

1. Neli cries when her mother leaves the room, explores his environment, and seeks out a hug when she returns.
2. Amanda shows indifference to her mother's presence.
3. Jorge is clingy and will not leave his mother's side.
4. David's mother invites her friends over for coffee. David freely interacts with his mother's friends and tries to engage them in his play.
5. Kara's mother works outside of the home, when her mother returns, Kara will play near her, but does not attempt to make contact.
6. When Phillip's father enters the house, he tries to cuddle with Phillip and give him a hug. Phillip struggles to get free and does not seem to want any contact with his father.
7. Josie is playing when her mother leaves for the grocery store, leaving Josie's older sister in charge. Josie notices her mother leave the house but does not seem to care that she has gone.
8. Andrew does not seek out independent activities, instead he tries to remain close to his mother, when she leaves momentarily, he cries hysterically.

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