Babies Need Love, Not Education
The Research on Non-Parental Early Care

Lauren Porter, Centre for Attachment
Lyttelton, New Zealand
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Research from Where?

• Behavioural/Attachment
  • Longitudinal
• Neurological/Cortisol

• and why ask the question?
Cortical

Limbic

Midbrain

Brainstem

Abstract Thought
Concrete Thought
Affiliation
“Attachment”
Sexual Behaviour
Emotional Reactivity
Motor Regulation
“Arousal”
Appetite/Satiety
Sleep
Blood Pressure
Heart Rate
Body Temperature

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Diurnal Patterns
Features of Optimal Relationship

- Proximity
- Sensitivity
- Responsiveness
Secondary Attachments
Who is an Attachment Figure?

- Provision of physical and emotional care
- Continuity and consistency in a child’s life
- Emotional investment in a child
Heirarchy

• Not better or worse
• Different spheres of influence
• Each has own relationship and status
• Changes over time
• Aim: complementary vs adversarial
• Unanswered question in data: how many caregivers are too many?
Data re: Non-Parental Care

- Behavioural
  - NICHD et al
  - Longitudinal
  - Aggression, anxiety, developmental
  - Age & hours
- Neurobiological
  - Cortisol
Dual Risk Hypothesis

- Risk is found even with high quality care
- Key question: what is ‘quality?’
- When child care is poor quality and parental sensitivity is low, children are more likely to be insecure
- High quality childcare can help compensate for family risk only if educators are particularly skilled and sensitive
- Hours in care are also associated with maternal sensitivity
Joint Attention Sequences
2 Main Hypotheses

- Stress/challenge of peer interactions
- Separation from primary caregiver
Child Advocacy? Mother Advocacy? Family Advocacy?

- Little Britons study, UK
What about with ‘bad’ parents?

- What does the research tell us
  - How do you build maternal sensitivity?
  - How do you support the parent in their role as parent?
  - How do you undo ‘damage’?
  - Where is the problem located?
Mom/Dad, when I get upset (frustrated, withdrawn, whiney, demanding, out of control):

My behavior actually means that I need you.

I need you to:
♦ Be calm
♦ Take Charge
♦ Be kind
♦ Stay with me until we both understand this feeling that seems too much for me alone
♦ Help me return to what I was doing, with a new option

“I don’t know what to do with how I’m feeling.”

CIRCLE OF REPAIR
Helping My Child Trust that Our Relationship Will (Almost) Always Set Things Right

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circleofsecurity.org
Giving Children a Voice

- Using evidence to help give that voice - advocacy
- Policy and procedures to reduce risk and augment interventions
- Separation risky for both child and parent
- How can we support parents who are struggling or at risk and who also potentially need to use childcare?
- How can children be woven more intricately into the frame of therapeutic work?
  - Mother-infant psychotherapy, family therapy, home visitation models