

**Executive Summary:
Attachment and Childhood Trauma
11/29/07
Sonoma County**

Children with serious psychological problems secondary to histories of abuse, neglect, or multiple placements provide a challenge to parents, therapists and social workers. For the past 20 years, Dr. Hughes has specialized in the treatment of children who manifest severe deficits in their emotional, cognitive, and behavioral development and demonstrate considerable difficulty establishing secure attachments in their relationships.

This training examines the role that placement decisions play in the ability of infants and young children to build strong attachments later in life. The different ways in which child welfare workers, foster parents and therapists can improve the outcomes for children who are having difficulty with attachment will be the focus of this training. A discussion of interventions by helping professionals to facilitate the development of secure attachment in traumatized children will be presented. The substitute care providers' skill in creating an environment that is conducive to supporting strong attachment will be addressed.

Target Audience: This workshop is intended for professionals who work with infants, children, and adolescents, as well as those who work with parents or staff in charge of children who are exhibiting attachment disordered behaviors. Such professionals include child welfare staff who work directly with children and need to discern states of attachment or indicators of attachment disorder in these children. The target audience also includes staff who provide services to children in residential treatment of any kind. In addition to child welfare professionals, mental health, juvenile justice, educational professionals will also benefit from this training.

Objectives:

1. Participants will understand the impact of developmental attachment on a child's neurological, affective, cognitive, and behavioral development.
2. Participants will understand three principles of parenting which facilitate the development of a secure attachment.
3. Participants will understand three specific strategies of parenting which facilitate the development of a secure attachment.
4. Participants will understand the importance of close relationships with professionals who are providing services for their child.

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training

The supervisor meeting with a participant could help by discussing what the worker already knows about attachment disorder and the worker's concerns for that specific behavior in his/her caseload. As well, the supervisor could help the worker verbalize what concerns s/he holds about decision-making variables, such as keeping children in the bio-homes, protecting other children in the home, treatment planning, placement breakdowns and moves, pre-adoptive screening, post-adoptive support.

AFTER the training

Supervisors can help support the transfer of learning by a) having the worker review what s/he learned at the workshop with the supervisor; and b) applying the knowledge to the case/s or situations selected before the training.