

Attachment Disorder Initial Checklist

Attachment Disorder is a complex and controversial issue - and arguably one of the most common underlying causes of 'challenging behaviour'. This check list can assist in identifying potential problems related to Attachment Disorder but it is not meant to substitute for a professional assessment and treatment plan. For a formal identification, the cooperation of the student's family / caregivers and specialist professionals is required. Ideally, the checklist should be completed collaboratively by two or more staff.

Student		Date		Staff	
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This student has been known to staff for _____ weeks / months.

The student...	yes	no	unsure
1. experienced changes in their primary caregiver / family situation during the first three years of life.			
2. experienced abuse / neglect during the first several years of life.			
3. has generally poor relationships with peers – friendships will often break down.			
4. presents with controlling / 'bossy' behaviours towards peers and adults.			
5. regularly displays aggression, anger and cruelty towards their peers.			
6. will not respond to or actively reject adult / parental affection (such as hugs, smiles, attempts at humor).			
7. may become overly demanding / 'clingy' with specific adults.			
8. will have a tendency to be indiscriminately affectionate with strangers.			
9. will argue intensively and for long periods of time over seemingly trivial matters or for no apparent reason at all.			

10. struggles with consequences – appears unable to show remorse, to learn from their mistakes etc.			
11. may suddenly switch to a friendly or charming mood in a way that appears contrived – a deliberate attempt to win over someone or achieve a specific aim.			
12. has made false accusations of abuse or neglect.			
13. will lie about obvious or trivial things, when it would be easier to tell the truth.			
14. will hoard food, binge eat, refuse food, steal food, eat strange things etc.			
15. has a fascination with violence, weapons, fire, blood and gore.			
16. has been known to be cruel to animals.			
17. has a tendency to deliberately break or ruin things.			
18. can be incessant in their questioning, will appear to talk for the sake of it.			
19. behaves in a way that is impulsive / inconsequential.			

Further Action:	
	This student requires continuous support with their additional needs.
	This student requires occasional support with their additional needs.
	This student is not a cause for concern.

Sources:
<http://www.mental-health-matters.com/articles/article.php?artID=573>
http://www.attachmentdisorder.net/Symptoms_Causes_Research.htm