

Attachment - Socialization

Socio-emotional development level equivalent to 6-18 months of age

Typical Socio-Emotional Capacities

- Behavioural patterns are inflexible and not modified to allow true interaction with peers (children at this developmental level don't really play *with* each other, but side by side)
- Clients show consistent emotional reactions towards attachment figures (no deliberate provocation)
- Clients do not need to be fed, but can use a spoon and eat food cut into bite-sized pieces
- Clients can engage in simple, repetitive activities
- Clients enjoy playing with and exploring the properties of amorphous substances and materials (e.g. sand, modelling clay, shredded paper)
- Clients require the presence and assistance of caregivers in all situations and areas of daily life
- Clients can handle simple social situations, i.e. small homogenous groups

Typical Socio-Emotional Needs

- Clients need specific primary caregivers who are there for them reliably and can serve as attachment figures to bond with
- Clients need a lot of individual attention and a secure bond with attachment figures
- Clients need regular physical contact with attachment figures (leaning on them, touching them briefly etc.)
- Clients need to be able to turn to attachment figures for reassurance when they are overwhelmed or stressed
- Clients' bond with attachment figures needs to be renewed and reinforced regularly throughout the day
- Clients need individual attention and guidance in group situations
- Clients are fascinated by amorphous materials and substances and enjoy tearing pillows, paper etc. to shreds, playing with sand and mud and so on
- Clients are dependent on others to provide an environment with suitable structures and conditions
- Clients derive self-esteem and a sense of achievement from mastering interaction patterns

Examples of Typical Maladaptive Behaviour

- Clients may demand constant attention, clinging and following caregivers around everywhere
- Unsupervised contact with peers may lead to rapidly building tension and auto-aggression or aggression directed at objects or others
- Clients may become extremely upset and agitated when interaction patterns or daily routines are interrupted
- Clients may resort to self-injury or destructive behaviour to get attention
- Clients may regress when deprived of contact for extended periods of time and display behaviour more typically seen at SEO Level 1, including:
 - repetitive, stereotypical behaviour
 - or withholding faeces
- Clients may frequently break and destroy objects