

Disrupted Attachment

- Lack of trust for caregivers
- Resistance to being nurtured or cared for
- Difficulty giving or receiving genuine affection
- Difficulty or inability to interpret facial or social cues
- Poor social skills
- Reduced ability to recognize emotions of others
- Poor or reduced emotional self-regulation
- Low self-esteem or feelings of inadequacy
- Demanding, clingy or over-controlling behaviors
- Chronic lying, stealing or other behaviors to provoke anger in others
- Impulsive behavior
- Difficulty understanding cause and effect
- Decreased capacity for emotional self-reflection
- Limited compassion, empathy and remorse

Developmental variations in children with disrupted attachment

Early childhood

- Delayed development of motor skills
- Severe colic and/or feeding difficulties; failure to thrive
- Resistance to being held, touched, cuddled or comforted
- Lack of response to smiles or other attempts to interact
- Lack of comfort seeking when scared, hurt or sick
- Excessive independence; failure to re-establish connection after separation

Elementary School Years

- Frequent complaints about aches and pains
- Age-inappropriate demands for attention
- Disinvestment in school and/or homework
- Inability to reflect on feelings or motives regarding behaviors
- Inability to understand the impact of behavior on others, lack of response to consequences
- Inability to concentrate or sit still
- Difficulty with reciprocity(give and take)in relationships
- May appear amoral (lacking moral development)
- Lying and stealing

Adolescence

- Aggressive , anti-social, impulsive, risk-taking or delinquent behavior
- Substance abuse
- Higher levels of disengagement
- Related depression and/or anxiety