

**Disturbances of Attachment Interview -- 12  
Early Adolescent Parent/Caregiver Report Version**

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Subject ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed by: Mother Father Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a semistructured interview designed to be administered by clinicians to caregivers who know the child and the child's behavior well. If possible, it should be administered to the child's primary caregiver. Specific probes are designed to elicit more information, but they are not intended to be exhaustive. Clinicians should feel free to probe further. The idea is to probe sufficiently so that the rating becomes obvious? The scoring is completed at the close of the interview based upon responses provided.

"We're talking with parents/caregivers about their children and some of the things they do, so we can understand children better. This interview takes about 30 minutes, sometimes a little more, sometimes a little less. Can you tell me how old [child] is?"

1) Does s/he have one special adult that s/he prefers over all others? Trusts emotionally? Turns to when needed? Who is it? How does s/he show that he prefers that person? Could you give me a specific example? Are there any other adults who are special, like this? Whom does he prefer most of all?

**0** Clearly differentiates among adults and demonstrates a preference for a particular caregiver

**1** Sometimes or somewhat indicates a preference for a particular caregiver

**2** Rarely or minimally demonstrates a preference for a particular caregiver

N.B. Familiarity is not equivalent to preference

2) Does child exhibit a lack of interest in interacting with/engaging with other people? Is this true all of the time or just some of the time? Does the child show this by withdrawn behavior? Frightened behavior? Disinterested behavior?

**0** Clearly is interested in interacting with/engaging with other people.

**1** Somewhat or sometimes is interested in interacting with/engaging with other people.

**2** Rarely or never is interested in interacting with/engaging with other people.

3a) When s/he is hurt physically or emotionally (i.e., hurt feelings) what does s/he do? Does s/he wait for you or other caregivers to figure it out and provide comfort or does s/he show you/confide in you by telling you when s/he is hurt? Does s/he ever seek comfort from people

that she doesn't know well? Does s/he ever go to someone unfamiliar for comfort even when someone familiar is available?

- 0 Clearly looks for comfort from a trusted and preferred caregiver
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat looks for comfort preferentially from a trusted and preferred caregiver
- 2 Rarely or minimally looks for comfort preferentially from a trusted and preferred caregiver

3b)

- 0 Actively seeks comfort from any available caregiver when hurt or upset.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat seeks comfort from any available adult caregiver when hurt or upset.
- 2 Rarely or minimally seeks comfort from any available caregiver when hurt or distressed; sits and cries or does not cry at all when hurt or distressed.

3c) Please circle if the child:

- a) fails to seek comfort consistently from anyone
- b) readily seeks comfort from whomever is available
- c) seeks comfort more readily from an unfamiliar adult instead of a more familiar caregiver

4) When s/he does come to you/or the preferred caregiver (or when you go to him/her) does s/he accept being comforted or does s/he resist your efforts? Or, s/he is hard to comfort?

- 0 Clearly responds to comfort from familiar caregivers when hurt, frightened, or distressed
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat responds to comfort from familiar caregivers when hurt, frightened, or distressed
- 2 Rarely or minimally responds to comfort from familiar caregivers when hurt, frightened, or distressed

5) Does s/he communicate with you in a social way, in which you feel connected to him/her? Is s/he able to do this with other people? *Rate if able to do this with anyone.*

- 0 Clearly responds reciprocally with familiar caregivers
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat responds reciprocally with familiar caregivers
- 2 Rarely or minimally responds reciprocally with familiar caregivers

6) How are his/her moods? Is s/he generally happy or is s/he one to be more irritable or sad or serious? Would you say s/he is like that most of the time or some of the time? How much of the time is s/he sad, serious, or irritable? Do the child's emotional reactions make sense under the circumstances? Would anyone react this way? Are the child's reactions excessive? Minimal? Inappropriate? Does the child have more difficulties with emotional reactions than most children his/her age? Do you consider this a problem? *Rate difficulties in emotion regulation.*

- 0 Clearly regulates emotions well with ample positive affect and developmentally expectable levels of irritability, fear and/or sadness.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat has difficulty regulating emotions with less positive affect and more irritability, fear and/or sadness than is expected developmentally
- 2 Rarely or minimally regulates emotions well; instead, has little positive affect and definitely elevated levels of irritability, fear and/or sadness.

7) When you are in a place that is not familiar for [child], what does s/he do? Does s/he check back with you or just go off without checking back? Does s/he tend to wander off without any particular purpose? If s/he finds him/herself separated from you does s/he get upset or does it seem to not really bother him/her? Does this worry you? Do you consider this a problem?

- 0 Clearly checks back with caregiver after venturing away, especially in unfamiliar settings.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat checks back with caregiver after venturing away, especially in unfamiliar settings.
- 2 Rarely or minimally checks back with caregiver after venturing away, especially in unfamiliar settings.

8) How does s/he behave around adults that s/he doesn't know? Does s/he tend to be friendly or is s/he one to stand back and observe or to approach? Does s/he tend to be sort of shy around strangers or to go right up to people s/he doesn't know? (If yes, why do you think s/he does this?) Does s/he cling too close to you, or does s/he just seem wary/cautious? Does s/he do this all the time or some of the time? Is his/her reaction sort of mixed so that at some times s/he is friendly but other times she might cry or s/he is friendly with some unfamiliar adults but not with others? Is s/he too friendly with strangers or people s/he hardly knows? Could you give me a specific example of a time when s/he was around an adult that s/he didn't know and tell what happened? If shy, does s/he seem to be shy at first and then tend to warm up or does s/he stay shy? Has she been consistently shy over time or has that been variable? For example, was she at one time more shy or less shy than she is now? (For **Adopted/Foster children**: Has s/he been the same in terms of shyness since you have known him/her or has her/his level of shyness changed at all?)

- 0 Clearly exhibits reticence with unfamiliar adults
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat exhibits reticence with unfamiliar adults

2 Rarely or minimally exhibits reticence with unfamiliar adults

9) Does child ever approach unfamiliar adults in an aggressive or intrusive way? For example, hitting them? Pulling at glasses, ties, or other intrusive acts?

0 Rarely or never approaches unfamiliar adults in an aggressive or intrusive way

1 Sometimes or somewhat approaches unfamiliar adults in an aggressive or intrusive way

2 Clearly approaches unfamiliar adults in an aggressive or intrusive way

10) Does child ever take unusual though non-aggressive liberties with unfamiliar adults, such as cuddling up (getting too close physically) or asking overly personal questions?

0 Rarely or never takes unusual though non-aggressive liberties with unfamiliar adults

1 Sometimes or somewhat take unusual though non-aggressive liberties with unfamiliar adults

2 Clearly takes unusual though non-aggressive liberties with unfamiliar adults

11a) Do you think s/he would be willing to go off with a stranger? Why do you think so? Could you give me a specific example? Do you think s/he would do this some of the time or most of the time? Has this way of interacting with strangers changed? Was s/he more/less willing at an earlier age to go off with someone s/he didn't know?

0 At present, clearly is not willing to go off readily with relative strangers.

1 At present, sometimes or somewhat is willing to go off readily with relative strangers.

2 At present, willing to go off readily with relative strangers.

11b)

0 In past, clearly was not willing to go off with a stranger

1 In past, sometimes or somewhat was willing to go off with a stranger

2 In past, was willing to go off readily with a stranger.

12) Is s/he one to get him/herself in risky situations? Could you give me a specific example? Is s/he one to run out into traffic or maybe pull stuff off of the stove? Does s/he seem to try to provoke you with his/her dangerous behavior? Does s/he do this with everyone or does s/he do this mostly around one particular person? Why do you think s/he does it?

0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of self-endangering behavior that is more pronounced in the presence of one particular caregiver.

**1** Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of self-endangering behavior that is more pronounced with one particular caregiver.

**2** Definitely engages in a pattern of self-endangering behavior that is more pronounced with one particular caregiver.

13) Does s/he tend to cling to you or stay very close to you like a younger child might? When does this seem to happen? Does it seem to happen if there is an adult around who she doesn't know? Or does it tend to happen at other times, too? Could you give me a specific example?

**0** Clearly does not engage in a pattern of excessive clinging to a particular caregiver in unfamiliar settings or with unfamiliar people.

**1** Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of excessive clinging to a particular caregiver in unfamiliar settings or with unfamiliar people.

**2** Definitely engages in a pattern of excessive clinging to a particular caregiver in unfamiliar settings or with unfamiliar people.

14) Does she ever seem to be especially afraid of any caregivers? Does she act especially frightened when caregivers are angry?

**0** Clearly does not engage in a pattern of fearful, inhibited, and hypervigilant behavior with any particular caregiver.

**1** Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of fearful, inhibited, and hypervigilant behavior with any particular caregiver.

**2** Definitely engages in a pattern of fearful, inhibited, and hypervigilant behavior with any particular caregiver.

15) Does s/he seem to know when you or other caregivers are sad or mad or upset? What will s/he do? Could you give me a specific example? Does s/he ever seem worried about you (or other caregivers) or worried for you (or other caregivers)? Could you give me an example? Does s/he seem almost preoccupied by how you (or other caregivers) are doing? Why do you think s/he does this? Do you ever think that it may be a bit too much for a child his/her age? Do you think it is a problem for child?

**0** Clearly does not engage in a pattern of controlling or role inappropriate behavior suggesting excessive preoccupation with caregiver's emotional well-being.

**1** Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of controlling or role inappropriate behavior suggesting excessive preoccupation with caregiver's emotional well-being.

**2** Definitely engages in a pattern of controlling or role inappropriate behavior suggesting excessive preoccupation with caregiver's emotional well-being.

Part II.

	Describes my child exactly	Describes my child pretty well	Describes my child a little bit	Does not describe my child
<i>Gets too physically close to strangers</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Is too cuddly with people s/he doesn't know well</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Often asks very personal questions even though s/he does not mean to be rude</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Can be aggressive towards him/herself e.g. using bad language about him/herself, headbanging, cutting etc.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Has no conscience</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Is too friendly with strangers</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometimes looks frozen with fear, without an obvious reason</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If you approach him/her, he/she often runs away or refuses to be approached</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>There is a false quality to the affection s/he gives</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If you approach him/her, you never know whether s/he will be friendly or unfriendly</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scoring	3	2	1	0

Part III.

16. Does the child characteristically avoid making eye contact with others? Does s/he often turn his/her eyes away when others try to initiate eye contact? [This can still be rated as positive if the parent/carer says there is only eye contact when the child is lying].

Does s/he avoid looking you or others directly in the eyes? Does s/he turn his/her eyes or body away to avoid eye to eye contact? Does this happen with everyone? When did this start?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of avoiding eye contact with others.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of avoiding eye contact with others.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of avoiding eye contact with others.

17. Does the child have *terrible* bouts of crying, e.g., throwing him/herself on the bed/sofa. What happens if you try to comfort him/her? When anyone tries to offer comfort, are they shrugged off and the misery is unassuaged? Is this different from general whininess? Different from temper tantrums? Does s/he sometimes have terrible bouts of crying? Does s/he sometimes seem completely distraught? Get examples. Are these bouts different from other same aged children?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of bouts of excessive crying.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of excessive crying.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of excessive crying.

18. Does s/he often misunderstand people's emotions? Does s/he think you are angry when you are only mildly annoyed? Does s/he misinterpret your facial expressions more often than other children the same age? Does s/he perceive silence as a threat? Does his/her teacher report this? *Does it happen in other situations?*

- 0 Clearly rarely or never misunderstands people's emotions.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat misunderstands people's emotions.
- 2 Definitely usually/often misunderstands people's emotions.

19. Does s/he seem wary or watchful, even though you can't see any reason why? Does s/he sometimes have to check things out before they can settle into a situation?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of wariness or watchfulness.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of wariness or watchfulness.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of wariness or watchfulness.



20. With regard to emotions, how intensely does s/he express them? Are drama or crisis situations common? Does s/he overdramatically or exaggeratedly express him/herself?

- 0 Clearly does not usually/often express emotions intensely and dramatically.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat expresses emotions intensely and dramatically.
- 2 Definitely expresses emotions intensely and dramatically.

21. Is s/he sorry if s/he has done something wrong? Will s/he accept that something is his/her fault? Does s/he accept responsibility less than other children his/her age? Is this something that worries you? Do you think this is a problem?

- 0 Clearly does accept responsibility for wrongdoing.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat accepts responsibility for wrongdoing.
- 2 Definitely fails to accept responsibility for wrongdoing.

22. Does the child have a negative attitude towards him/herself? For example, this may be demonstrated by bad language about him/herself, self-harm e.g. cutting, scratching, headbanging, and/or by losing/breaking/refusing possessions/gifts as if these things are too good for him/her? Does s/he often speak badly about him/herself? Does s/he harm herself physically? Does s/he cut/scratch/headbang? Does s/he destroy or lose presents or other special things she is given?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of self-harmful behavior.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of self-harmful behavior.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of self-harmful behavior.

23. Does the child exhibit a lack of awareness of, and sensitivity to, other people's feelings? Is s/he good at understanding other people's feelings? Can s/he usually tell when other people are upset? If another child is crying, does s/he try to comfort the child? Does his/her response ever seem inappropriate? Like s/he laughs if a child is crying? Can s/he tell if s/he is making someone upset?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of being unaware of/insensitive to others' feelings.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of being unaware of/insensitive to others' feelings.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of being unaware of/insensitive to others' feelings.

24. Does s/he tell really obvious lies? Does s/he sometimes tell lies when it is obvious s/he is going to be found out? Does s/he show reluctance to own up even when it is really obvious they have done it? Do the lies leave you incredulous? More so than other children his/her age?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of obvious lying.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of obvious lying.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of obvious lying.

25. Does s/he have a need to control things? Does s/he want to be his/her own boss? Does s/he get very upset if someone else is making the rules?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of controlling behavior.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of controlling behavior.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of controlling behavior.

26. Does s/he keep making the same mistakes? Does s/he learn from his/her mistakes? Does s/he have to learn the hard way?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of failing to learn from his/her mistakes.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of failing to learn from his/her mistakes.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of failing to learn from his/her mistakes.

27. Is s/he overly friendly with strangers? Does s/he seem to need affection from whatever adult is near? Is the child sensible about being friendly with adults? Is that more than average for a child his/her age, do you think? Does it worry you? Do you think it's a problem? Has s/he always been like that?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of being overfriendly with strangers.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of being overfriendly with strangers.
- 2 Definitely engages in a pattern of being overfriendly with strangers.

28. When s/he is affectionate, does it feel genuine? Does s/he often come across as superficially charming? Can hugs, kisses etc. feel excessive or annoying?

- 0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of insincere, superficial affection.
- 1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of insincere, superficial affection.

2 Definitely engages in a pattern of insincere, superficial affection.

29. Does s/he act younger than his/her age? Do you feel as if you are dealing with a younger child? Does s/he act in a babyish way?

0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of immature behavior.

1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of immature behavior.

2 Definitely engages in a pattern of immature behavior.

30. Does s/he need to be the center of attention? Can s/he be demanding? Is this more than other children his/her age? Is this a problem not just at home but in social situations?

0 Clearly does not engage in a pattern of demanding/attention seeking behavior.

1 Sometimes or somewhat engages in a pattern of demanding/attention seeking behavior.

2 Definitely engages in a pattern of demanding/attention seeking behavior.

#### Part IV.

0 = Not at all true 1 = Somewhat true 2 = Very true/Definitely true

1. Expresses his/her feelings openly.	0	1	2	3
2. Does not seem to know "right" from "wrong."	0	1	2	3
3. Is concerned about schoolwork.	0	1	2	3
4. Does not care who he/she hurts to get what he/she wants.	0	1	2	3
5. Feels bad or guilty when he/she has done something wrong.	0	1	2	3
6. Does not show emotions.	0	1	2	3
7. Does not care about being on time.	0	1	2	3
8. Is concerned about the feelings of others.	0	1	2	3
9. Does not care if he/she is in trouble.	0	1	2	3
10. Does not let feelings control him/her.	0	1	2	3
11. Does not care about doing things well.	0	1	2	3
12. Seems very cold and uncaring.	0	1	2	3
13. Easily admits to being wrong.	0	1	2	3
14. It is easy to tell how he/she is feeling.	0	1	2	3
15. Always tries his/her best.	0	1	2	3
16. Apologizes ("says he/she is sorry") to persons he/she has hurt.	0	1	2	3
17. Tries not to hurt others' feelings.	0	1	2	3
18. Shows no remorse when he/she has done something wrong.	0	1	2	3
19. Is very expressive and emotional.	0	1	2	3
20. Does not like to put the time into doing things well.	0	1	2	3

21. The feelings of others are unimportant to him/her.	0	1	2	3
22. Hides his/her feelings from others.	0	1	2	3
23. Works hard on everything.	0	1	2	3
24. Does things to make others feel good.	0	1	2	3

Part V.

Not at all true = 0      Somewhat true = 1      Very true = 2      Definitely true = 3

1. Hurts others to win a game or contest	0	1	2	3
2. Seems to enjoy making fun of others	0	1	2	3
3. When teased, will hurt someone or break something	0	1	2	3
4. Gossips about others when angry at them	0	1	2	3
5. Starts fights to get what he/she wants	0	1	2	3
6. Deliberately excludes others from group, even if they haven't done anything to him/her	0	1	2	3
7. Spreads rumors and lies about others when they do something wrong to him/her	0	1	2	3
8. When hurt by someone, will end up getting into a fight	0	1	2	3
9. Tries to make others look bad to get what he/she wants	0	1	2	3
10. When upset by someone, will tell friends to stop liking that person	0	1	2	3
11. Threatens others when they do something wrong to him/her	0	1	2	3
12. Hurts others to feel powerful and respected	0	1	2	3
13. Tells others' secrets for things they did to him/her a while back	0	1	2	3
14. When threatened, will end up getting into a fight	0	1	2	3
15. Makes new friends to get back at someone who has made him/her angry	0	1	2	3
16. Hurts others when angry at them	0	1	2	3
17. When angry at someone, will write mean notes about them and pass the notes around	0	1	2	3
18. Threatens others to get what he/she wants	0	1	2	3
19. Gossips about others to become popular	0	1	2	3
20. If mad at someone, will hurt them	0	1	2	3
21. Is deliberately cruel to others, even if they haven't done anything to him/her	0	1	2	3
22. When angry at others, will try to make them look bad	0	1	2	3
23. Will try to steal others' friends from them to get what he/she wants	0	1	2	3
24. Carefully plans out how to hurt others	0	1	2	3
25. When mad at someone, will throw things at them	0	1	2	3
26. Gossiping about others seems to make him/her feel popular	0	1	2	3
27. Hurts others for things they did to him/her a while back	0	1	2	3
28. Seems to enjoy hurting others	0	1	2	3

29. Spreads rumors and lies about others to get what he/she wants	0	1	2	3
30. When in an argument or physical fight, it is usually because he/she has acted without thinking	0	1	2	3
31. If mad at someone, will tell their secrets	0	1	2	3
32. Ignores or stops talking to others in order to get them to do what he/she wants	0	1	2	3
33. Likes to hurt smaller kids	0	1	2	3
34. When mad at others, will try to steal their friends from them	0	1	2	3
35. Threatens others, even if they haven't done anything to him/her	0	1	2	3
36. When angry, will hurt someone	0	1	2	3
37. Has gotten into fights, even over small insults from others	0	1	2	3
38. When starting rumors about others, it is usually because he/she has acted without thinking	0	1	2	3
39. Says mean things about others, even if they haven't done anything to him/her	0	1	2	3
40. When mad at someone, will try to exclude them from his/her group	0	1	2	3