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Attachment as Related to Mother-Infant Interaction

Mary D. Salter Ainsworth

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Publisher Summary

Infant-mother attachment is conceived as an affectional tie that a baby forms to his mother figure, binding them together in space and enduring over time; such bonding is not present at birth, but develops during the first year of life. This chapter provides an overview of individual differences in attachment and attachment behavior as they are related to differences in maternal behavior in interaction with the infant. Although, the infant through his own idiosyncratic patterns of behavior, contributes to the interaction with his mother; however, the extent to which his mother goes along with, disregards, or opposes the implications of the baby's behavioral cues makes a great deal of difference to the quality of the interaction. To the extent that it is the mother's contribution that emerges as the more important, it can be expected that information, advice, training, and or intervention might assist mothers to adopt practices likely to facilitate normal infant development. The chapter acknowledges that changes in the behavior of one partner may at some particular stage of the infant development and in regard to some specific aspect of mother-infant interaction trigger changes in the

regard to some specific aspect of mother-infant interaction trigger changes in the behavior of the other.



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