

Infant-mother attachment and the growth of externalizing problems across the primary-school years

Article

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Key Points

- Attachment is believed to be important for children's development
- Data from this study indicate that insecure mother-infant attachment in infancy is associated with greater externalizing behavior problems during the school years (grades 1-6)
- Boys with a disorganized attachment in infancy, who also live in deprived circumstances, are particularly at risk for the development of behavior problems
- These effects become larger over time, peaking between Grades 5 and 6
- Attachment, particularly in high risk social conditions, may be an important focus for prevention efforts aimed at reducing the incidence of externalizing behavior problems