Privation – situations that prevent attachments.

Hodges and Tizard


Rutter et al, 2007

Romanian orphans, assessed 4, 6, 11. Suffered lack of physical/emotional care before adoption. British adoptees showed normal development at 6 months of age. Post 6 months had indiscriminate attachments (attaches to most) peer problems.

Koluchova, 1976 - Czech twins

Male identical twins born in former Czechoslovakia whose mother died after giving birth. Child’s home for 11 months, 6 months with aunt, then to father and step mother. Father of low intelligence, mother cruel. Discovered at age 7. Short in stature, hardly walk and had rickets. No proper speech, frightened by new environment. Full recovery, lived normal lives.

Genie Case Study

Genie, aged 13, found tied to potty during day and in a cot during the night. High levels of abuse and neglect. Little to no contact. No interaction. Found with poor motor skills, no language of cognitive skills. Never fully recovered even with psychological help. Developed attachment with foster carers.