secure group was rated as low in anxiety and hostility and felt confident in relationships. The dismissing group, high in hostility, relationships more distant, felt lonely and didn't feel supported by their family. The preoccupied-entangled groups felt well supported by their family, high in anxiety and lacking in confidence in their relationships. The results of this study showed that early attachment, as reflected in adult attachment types, can affect the nature of relationships in young adults.

Hazan and Shaver (1987) wanted to investigate a possible ink between the quality of mothering experienced as an infant and the experience of adult romantic love. Ainsworth's 3 basic types were used to create 3 corresponding types of adult attachment. A love quiz was then published in a newspaper and readers were asked to pick which description of adult relationships best applied to them. They also got asked to complete an adjective checklist in conjunction with their parenting. They analysed the first 620 replies and there was a significant correlation between attachment classification, based on the checklist and the choice of participants' description of adult relationships. They concluded that there is a link between early attachment experience and the nature of romantic relationships formed as an adult.

A further study carried out by Collins and Read (1990) had explored in more detail the nature of the dimensions along which adult attachments differ. 3 dimensions were established- the extent to which a person is comfortable with closeness, feels that he or she can depend on others, is anxious that he or she will be unloved or abandoned. They found that for women, being comfortable with closeness was the prediction of a good relationship with a dating partner, while being low in anxiety and being unloved or abandoned was the best predictor for men.

Simpson et al (2007) provided further support for the importance of early attachment experiences for shaping adult relationships. They studied 78p's at 4 points in their lives. The researchers found that p's who were securely attached as infants were also showing higher levels of social competence as children, were closer to their parents as 16 year olds and were more expressive and more emotionally attached to their romantic partners in early adulthood.

Richards (1995) found that children whose parents divorced had more distant relationships with their parents and other relatives as adults. Again, there were individual differences in terms of the impact of divorce, resulting from a number of possible factors, such as the sex of the children, the amount of parental contact and the nature of the relationship with their parents.

However some research found that early attachment was not a good predictor of later relationship. Furman et al (2002) found that the quality of adolescent friendships predicted features of romantic relationships, but relationships with parents – as measured by the AAI – did not. This could be explained in terms of the interpersonal theory of personality and personal relationship processes put forward by Sullivan (1953).

Sullivan's theory proposed that mature relationships are related not only to attachment, but also to affiliation (characterised by wanting to spend time with another person), care-giving (offering support eg by making someone feel good about themselves) and sexual behaviour.

Zimmerman (2000) found that early attachment was not a good predictor of later relationships, life events and in particular serious parental illness and divorce were more influential.

Feeney (1996) examined the relationship between attachment style and marital satisfaction. She believed there would be a relationship between attachment style and care giving that this, in turn, would affect how satisfied someone was in their relationship. She found that secure attachment was associated with supportive care giving to the partner and that marital satisfaction was higher for