

Resource sheet 5.3

Attachment

Babies and young children:

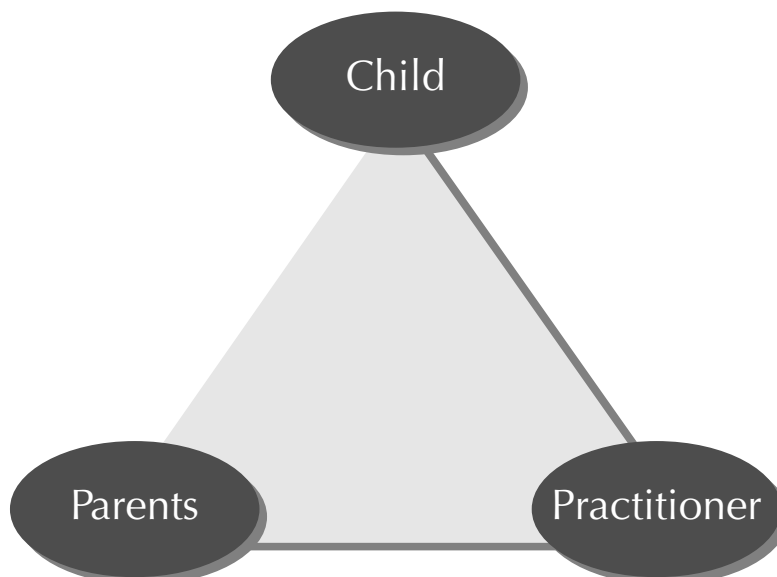
- seek intimate and intense relationships
- thrive within warm, responsive relationships with familiar carers
- need consistent carers who know them well and pick up non-verbal and verbal cues
- need to be physically held and touched.

Children who experience consistent, affectionate relationships are able to offer affection to others and develop sociability.

Securely attached infants feel confident to explore and learn, knowing they can return to a 'safe' place.

Three-way relationships

The image of a triangle of care can be shared with parents in order to describe the three-way relationship that needs to develop between a practitioner, parents and child.



All parts of the triangle contribute equally to its strength. If any one of the three is feeling anxious, stressed or under threat, it has a negative effect upon the other two. The relationship between child and practitioner needs to be a warm, emotional one. Parents can be reassured that they have the enduring, long-term attachment with the child. Parents and practitioners who establish a friendly, working relationship are able to share what they know about the child regularly.

(Edwards 2002; Lindon 2001; Gerhardt 2004)