

## ATTACHMENT

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### EARLY BONDING AND ATTACHMENT RESEARCH

Rene Spitz's studies and observations in the 1940s established that young children deprived of nurturing human touch and human interaction would wither and die despite good food, safe housing, proper hygiene, and adequate medical care. Spitz reported that babies raised in a foundling home environment under the clinical care of nurses working eight hour shifts, failed to grow and develop. More than a third died. Most were physically, mentally and socially retarded and 21 of them were still living in institutions after 40 years, still unable to care for themselves because of their early deprivation.

*Spitz, Hospitalism—An Inquiry Into the Genesis of Psychiatric Conditions in Early Childhood, (1945) 1 Psychoanalytic Study of the Child, pp. 53-74. See also Spitz, Hospitalism: A Follow-up Report, (1946) Psychoanalytic Study of the Child, pp. 113-117.*