



## What's in the bag? Attachment processes at school

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## The three things

- A brief word on attachment and its significance.
- Relevance to children's school engagement
- Share thoughts on what children are looking for & how adults in schools can help them find it.

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## If it goes well – Security



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## The long view of security

- Greater independence
- Greater trust
- Better relationships
- Stronger wellbeing
- Greater capacity to provide care

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### The Map

- A way of seeing relationship.
- A way for following need.
- A way to understand caregiving.
- Then... a means to track struggle and success.

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### Where does it come from?



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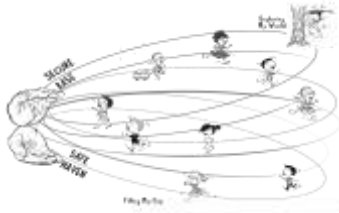
### Fonagy on Epistemic Trust in Learning



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### Meeting Relationship Needs at School

Circle of Security offers teachers a way to see things differently.



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Pick your top three and then discuss your top choice and why you think it is important

#### The Teacher That Gets it Different

What 10 pieces of research on how to get it different do you think are most important for you?

- High quality of care in early childhood
- High quality of teaching
- High quality of leadership
- High quality of professional development
- High quality of leadership
- High quality of leadership
- High quality of leadership
- High quality of leadership
- High quality of leadership
- High quality of leadership

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Attachments are in the relationship but what is in the child's attachment backpack?

Children bring relationship histories from home to school that affect their willingness to engage in secure attachment relationships.

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Adults make me feel safe and secure

Adults help me if I don't need too much

Adults need me to be needy

I am afraid, about to lose it and adults can't help

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PERSONAL REFLECTION

Experience some protection against the impact of growing up in stressful environments



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### Strong Teacher-Student Relationships



Boyer, C. & Boyer, D. (2009). Attachment in the classroom. *Educational Psychology Review*, 21(2), 161-170. All rights reserved. Source: [Learning Environment](#)



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### Losing the Balance



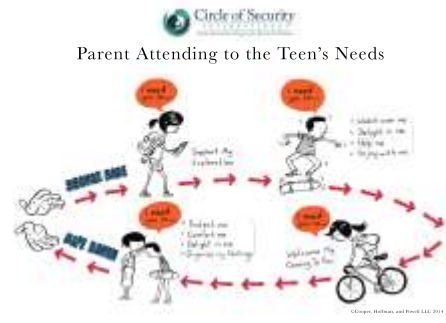
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Emerging Evidence: Benefits for Students and Teachers

- Increase in Teachers' self-efficacy in managing challenging behaviors
- Decrease in Teachers' depression scores
- Decrease in Teachers' job stress levels
- Increase in teacher-ratings of Student-teacher closeness scores with children who experienced high adversity

Gray, S. A. (2015). Widening the circle of security: A quasi-experimental evaluation of attachment-based professional development for family childcare providers. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 36(3), 308-319.

Topple, T. A. (2018). *Adversity and Attachment in Early Childhood Education: A Group-randomized Trial of the Circle of Security-classroom Approach in a Head Start Center* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Georgia)



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