



Critically Discussing 'Poor Attachments' and the Implications for Children and Across the Life Course

ECCY7007 –

Understanding Trauma and the Mental Health Needs
of the Child.

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24 January 2026

Aims

Explore	Critically explore what we mean by 'poor attachment'.
Examine	Trauma and ACEs and the implications for unresolved issues throughout the life course.
Consider	Cultural sensitivity within the topic.
Evaluate	Evaluate the relational-based approach to intervention which addresses 'attachment difficulties' in children in adolescence who are deemed 'child in need' after' by the local authority.
Reflect on	Reflect on professional learning



What is Attachment?

Emotional bond between child and caregiver

Secure and insecure patterns

Dynamic and relational

Not fixed within the child



Defining Poor Attachment

Risk of pathologising

Often linked to trauma and neglect

Shaped by inequality and systems



Trauma-Informed Practice

Behaviour as
communication

Safety, trust,
empowerment

What happened
to you?



ACEs and Attachment

Cumulative adversity



Critiques of determinism



Structural inequality
overlooked



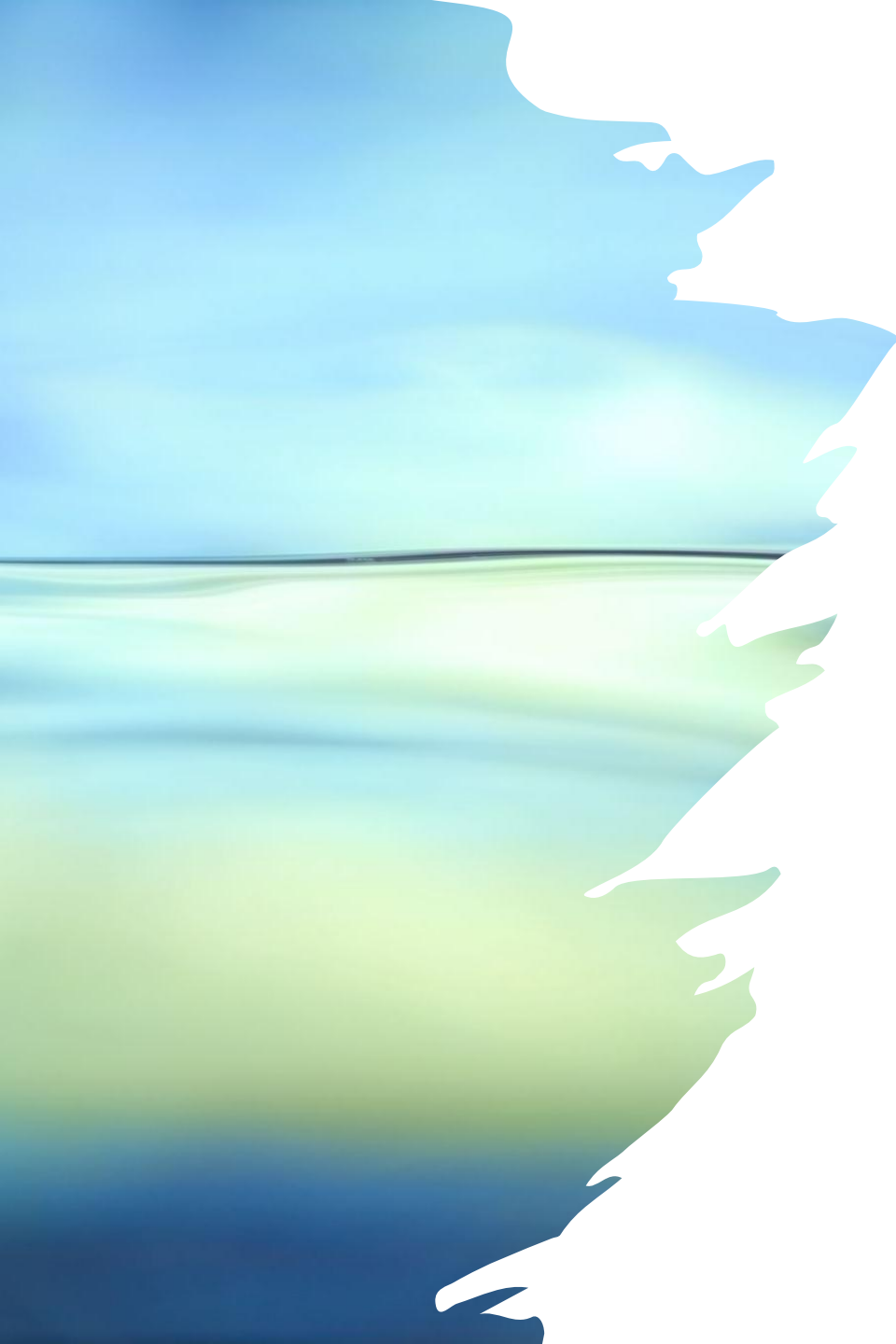
Cultural Sensitivity

Western origins
of theory

Cultural
caregiving
differences

Anti-oppressive
practice





Early Childhood Impact

Emotional
dysregulation

Developmental
delay

Heightened stress
response



Middle Childhood Impact

Peer
difficulties

Low self-
esteem

Behavioural
labelling



Adolescent Impact

Risk-taking

Mental health
concerns

Identity
struggles





Lifelong Impact

Relationship
difficulties

Mental ill-health

Intergenerational
trauma



Protective Factors

Stable adult relationships

School – sense of belonging

Community identity



Supporting SEMH Needs

Therapeutic
parenting

Play therapy

Relationship-
Based
approach



Multi-Agency Responses

Early intervention

Consistency

Supporting/supportive carers



Critical Practice Reflections

Avoid

labels

Find
Balance

Balance neuroscience and justice

Challenge

Challenge blame



Professional Learning

Reflective supervision

Cultural learning

Self-awareness



Personal Development

Critical Reflection

Effective Supervision

SMART goals

Engagement with research



Key Messages

Attachment is relational

Context matters

Change is possible



Diolch Yn Fawr



couple little mother group home bonding
family relative care private home
protection system together secure
dad trust car
kinship
infant adopting secure parent
foster care minor tempo
person stability grandparent
parent happiness lifestyle
fostering child daughter
family court joy kid
relative



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