

'Include me in'...

CROSSREACH
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

2001-2011

10 years of giving children back their childhood

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Why Attachment Matters

Early Years Conference

7th March 2012

Paul Gilroy: Head of Service

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'The true measure of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children – their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialization, and their sense of being loved, valued, and included in the families and societies into which they are born.'

Overview of Child Well Being in Rich Countries, UNICEF, 2007

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What is Attachment

Attachment is a fundamental building block of human relationships across the lifespan. Children who were securely attached as babies do better in all aspects of life because they have a sense of trust and confidence in themselves.

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SAIA, Policy Document



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Attachment Styles

- Secure Attachment
- Anxious/Ambivalent Insecure Attachment
- Anxious/Avoidant Insecure Attachment
- Disorganised Attachment



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Impact of Insecure & Disorganised Attachments

- **Reactive behaviours in children** – *unable to regulate their feelings, emotions and reactions to feeling distressed*
- **Mental Health Issues** – we have seen an increase in children & young people
- **School difficulties**
- **Children who are Looked After** - are at higher risk of above often due to multiple placements
- **Future Parenting difficulties**

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Our Vision

Crossreach Children's Services vision is:

Support children and young people (families and carers) through the *INTENTIONAL BUILDING OF POSITIVE AND GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS* with adults and peers in a safe and consistent environment.

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Our Vision



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We believe that children who have been harmed through relationships can be healed through relationships

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Our Values

- We are all unique
- Our behaviour, thinking and feeling are understandable and explainable
- We want to be included
- We are doing the best we can
- We need opportunities to discover who and how we want to be
- We have strengths and resiliencies
- We can develop new and different ways of being

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How We Work

Alliance
not
Compliance

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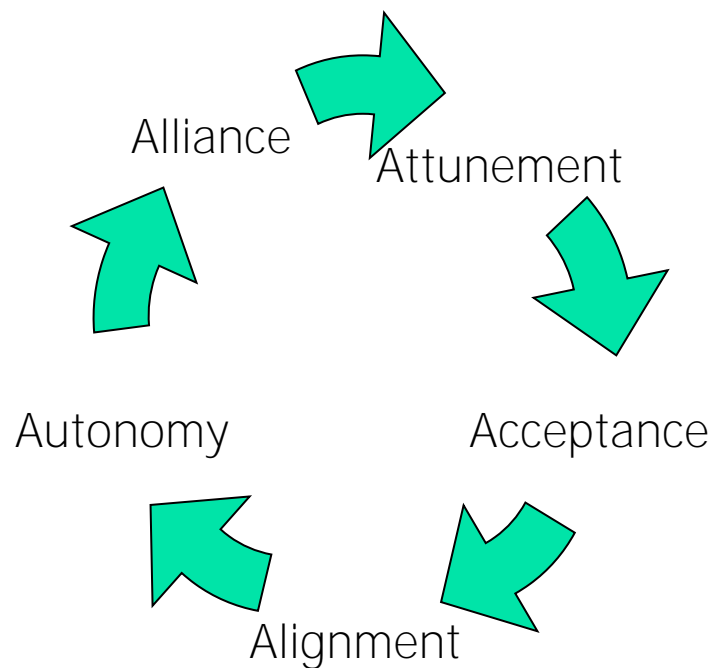
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'A' Model



Relational Model

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Creating a Relational Environment

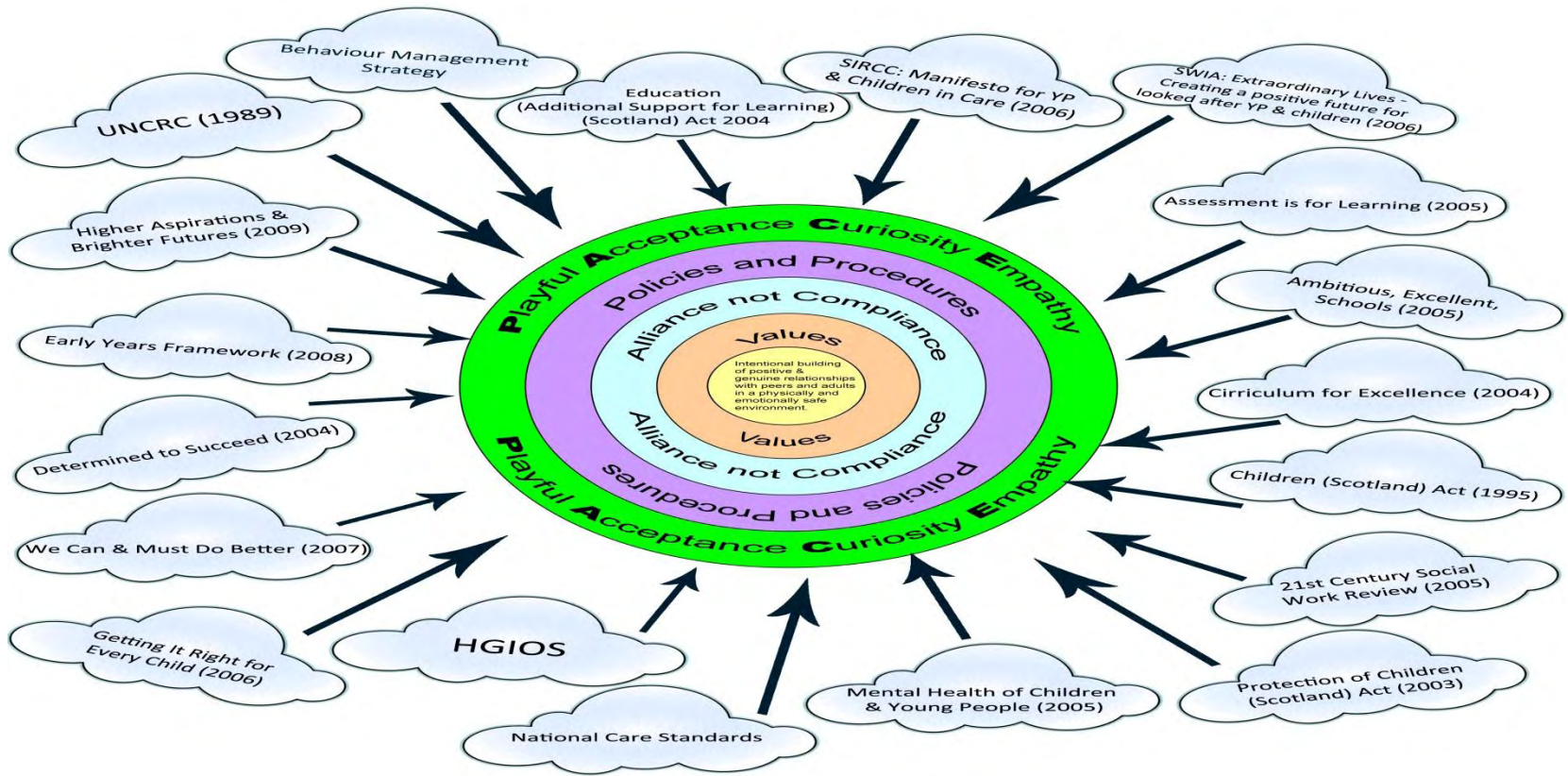


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Why Attachment Matters

- Secure attachment provides a healthy & positive (reciprocal) relationship between child and care giver.
- As adults, securely attached children are more equipped to have reciprocal relationships and have an expectation that their needs will be met and that they will be able to meet the needs of others.
- They have the capacity to show emotional connection with others
- Gives children lifelong protection from stress and emotional anxiety and a greater chance of coping with, and surviving, traumatic life events.

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Why Attachment Matters

Attachment is not an **event** it is a process of human development that impacts on our life journey

Attachment is not only about individuals but about the Relational Health of society



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Contact Information

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