DEVELOPING THE ROOTS OF SOCIABILITY

Who IS that strange person, anyway?

- Stranger anxiety
  - Memory develops → ability to recognize familiar people emerges → ability to anticipate and predict events increases → appearance of unknown person causes fear
  - Common around 6 months
  - Significant difference among infants and situations

Separation Anxiety

- Distress displayed by infants when a customary care provider departs

Separation Anxiety

- Universal across cultures
- Begins about 7-8 months; peaks around 14 months
- Largely attributable to same reasons as stranger anxiety

Smiling

- Earliest smiles: little meaning
  - 6 to 9 weeks:
    - Begin reliable smiling
    - Smile first relatively indiscriminate then selective
  - 18 months:
    - Social smiling more frequent toward humans than nonhuman objects
- End of 2nd year:
  - Use smiling purposefully
  - Show sensitivity to emotional expressions of others

Decoding Others’ Facial and Vocal Expressions

- Imitative abilities early in life may pave way for nonverbal decoding
- Infants interpret others’ facial and vocal expressions that carry meaning
  - In first 6 to 8 weeks
  - By 4 months
If you’re happy and she knows it...

- Social referencing
  - First occurs around 8-9 months
  - Intentional search for cues
  - Aids in understanding others’ behavior in context

Do infants really know who they are?

Development of Self-Awareness

- Roots of self-awareness
  - Begin to grow around 12 months
  - Influenced by cultural upbringing
- Research
  - Rouge spot
    - Average awareness begins 17 to 24 months
  - Complicated tasks requests
    - Awareness of inabilities around 23-24 months

Just Think About That!

- Theory of mind
  - Knowledge and beliefs how mind works and influences behavior
  - Child explanations used to explain how others think

How does a theory of mind develop?

- See other people as compliant agents
- Begin to understand causality and intentionality
- Demonstrate rudiments of empathy
- Begin to use deception to fool others

FORMING RELATIONSHIPS
Understanding Attachment

Earliest animal research suggests attachment based on biologically determined factors
  - Lorenz → imprinted goslings
  - Harlow → contact-seeking monkeys
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flrBrk9DXVk

Earliest human research suggests attachment based on needs for safety and security
  - Bowlby:
    - Attachment provides home base through qualitatively unique relationship with individual who best provides safety
    - As children become more independent, they progressively roam further away from their secure base

Ainsworth’s Strange Situation

Widely used experimental technique to measure attachment
  - Sequence of staged episodes that illustrate strength of attachment between child and (typically) mother

Do all infants attach?

Reactions to Strange Situation vary considerably
  - One-year-olds typically show one of four major patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of Infant Attachment</th>
<th>Classification Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securely attached</td>
<td>Low (attachment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securely attached</td>
<td>High (attachment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anxious</td>
<td>Low (attachment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avoidant</td>
<td>High (attachment)</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Does the quality of attachment have significant consequences for later life relationships?

Yes
  - Securely attached 1-year-old males show fewer psychological difficulties at older ages
  - Securely attached infants are more socially and emotionally competent later and more positively viewed
  - Adult romantic relationships are associated with attachment style developed during infancy

But...
  - Children who do not have a secure attachment style during infancy do not invariably experience difficulties later in life
  - Children with a secure attachment at age 1 do not always have good adjustment later in life
What roles do parents play in producing attachment?

Mothers
- Sensitivity to their infants’ needs and desires is hallmark of mothers of securely attached infants
  - Aware of moods and feelings
  - Responsive in face-to-face interactions
  - Feeds “on demand”
  - Demonstrates warmth and affection
  - Responds rapidly and positively to cues

Fathers
- Expressions of nurturance, warmth, affection, support, and concern are extremely important to infant emotional and social well-being

Developmental Diversity

Does attachment differ across cultures?
- Research findings suggest human attachment is not as culturally universal as Bowlby predicted
- Certain attachment patterns seem more likely among infants of particular cultures:
  - Germany
  - Israel and Japan
  - China and Canada

Feldman’s Conclusions
- Attachment is viewed as susceptible to cultural norms and expectations
- Cross-cultural and within-cultural differences reflect nature of measure employed and expectations of various cultures

Feldman’s Conclusions (contd.)

- Attachment should be viewed as a general tendency, that varies in way it is expressed according to how actively caregivers in a society seek to instill independence in their children
- Secure attachment, as defined by the Western-oriented Strange Situation, is seen earliest in cultures that promote independence, but may be delayed in societies in which independence is less important cultural value

Differences among Infants