

# Assessment of disturbances of attachment in children with intellectual or multiple (visual and intellectual) disabilities: Model, prevalence and comorbidity with psychopathology

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<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Pending
<b>Health condition type</b>	Other condition
<b>Study type</b>	Observational invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON30716

#### Source

ToetsingOnline

#### Brief title

Disturbances of attachment in ID/MD CAP

### Condition

- Other condition
- Psychiatric and behavioural symptoms NEC

#### Synonym

Attachment Disorder, Disturbances of Attachment

#### Health condition

verstandelijke (en zintuiglijke) beperkingen

## Research involving

Human

## Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Vrije Universiteit

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W, Vereniging Bartiméus

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Disabled Children, Proces Assessment (Health Care), Psychopathology, Reactive Attachment Disorder

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Interrater reliability of the adapted version of the DAI and COA; association between DAI and COA; association between DAI, PDD, VMB, psychopathology (DSM-IV), level of functional development and course of treatment.

### Secondary outcome

Not applicable.

## Study description

### Background summary

Children with visual, intellectual or multiple disabilities are at greater risk for maladaptive development of social relatedness and development of psychopathology. The disturbed development of attachment may be at the root of many of these problems. There is a lack of evidence-based instruments for the assessment of disturbed attachment, particularly for this group of children. Because of the overlapping behavioral signs, distinctions between disturbances and disorders are often hard to make, for instance between disturbed attachment and psychiatric disorders like pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). Furthermore, without diagnostic instruments it is difficult to make the right (therapeutic) decisions for these children and to determine treatment effects.

### Study objective

The primary aim of the project is to establish the prevalence of symptoms of disturbed attachment in children with intellectual or multiple disabilities (referred for psychiatric consultation and aged 5 till 11). Also to establish the reliability and validity of the Disturbances of Attachment Interview (DAI) as a diagnostic interview for screening disturbed attachment, determined on the basis of the guidelines for assessment by the AACAP (2005) and to investigate the associated factors of disturbed attachment. Secondary aims of this project are: to investigate the overlap of symptoms of disturbed attachment and symptoms of PDD in these group of children; to introduce and implement the DAI and Clinical Observation of Attachment (COA) as instruments for screening and assessment disturbed attachment in at least ten centres for psychological and psychiatric assessment of children with intellectual or multiple disabilities.

## **Study design**

Observational study

## **Study burden and risks**

This project investigates common, everyday interactions between children and their primary caregivers. The observations in the research(playing)room (COA) differ hardly from observations in regular psychological or psychiatric assessments, although challenging situations are included (brief separations from caregiver; difficult tasks) which also occur in daily situations. The optometric screening includes a visual assesment (visual aquity, visual field, movement detection) and will be excecuted by experienced, qualified ophthalmologists. The used instruments and methods are worldwide wellknown and accepted; there will be no use of eye drops.

The project includes children with intellectual or multiple disabilities, referred for psychiatric consultation. Instruments are tested in this group that will improve the making psychosocial assessments in this population. The participating children may profit of their participation in the study, because the test outcomes (including the standardized as well as the nonstandardized tests) may provided to the diagnostic centre, if caregivers and clients so desire. The instruments, administred to the primary caregivers (such as the DAI) will not burden the child. In the Clinical Observation of Attachment procedure the children will be confronted with short moments of separation of their parents/primary caregivers. In the presence of the primary caregiver the child will be confronted with a short, unexpected loud sound. The (mild) stress, that may be evoked, is necessary to observe (disturbed) attachment behavior.

## Contacts

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### Scientific

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Children (2-11 years)

### Inclusion criteria

Indication for psychiatric assessment; age between 5,0 and 11,0; IQ between 50 and 85; informed consent by parents/caregivers.

### Exclusion criteria

When not comply with criteria D4a; in case child and/or parents/caregivers do not understand or speak the Dutch language.

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Diagnostic

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Pending

Start date (anticipated): 01-09-2006

Enrollment: 400

Type: Anticipated

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Amsterdam UMC

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

### In other registers

**Register**

CCMO

**ID**

NL13949.029.06