Attachment: Romanian orphan studies - institutionalisation

Preparation tasks

Watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCeWr8OFuEs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEzTFmiCeks

Listen:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b015p62y

Watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYzXvt15sLI&t=167s

Complete the worksheet while you watch the video

Notes and Reading

A01 - description

- ❑ Read 'The specification says' section
- ❑ Check the Lifelines – make sure you scan these to understand the reading
- ❑ Make structured notes from these headings. You need to be able to clearly describe the Rutter et al. (2011) study on Romanian Orphans
  - o **Define: Orphan studies, Institutionalisation**
  - o **Define: Disinhibited Attachment**
  - o **Outline: what was the background to the Romanian Orphan studies?**
  - o Rutter et al. (English Romanian Adoptee study)
    - ▪ Aim, Procedure (measures, ages, controls)
    - ▪ Findings:
      - • IQ: as well as written notes, turn the IQ findings into bar charts using the data given
      - • Attachment: the behavioural differences between adoption before / after 6 months
  - o Zeanah et al:
    - ▪ Procedure
    - ▪ Findings: again use a bar chart to summarise the data
  - o Effects of institutionalisation
    - ▪ Disinhibited attachment + Rutter's explanation
    - ▪ Intellectual disability
- ❑ Wally Extension: read and complete the Gunnar study questions below:

Gunnar *et al.* (2001) investigated levels of cortisol in 18 children aged 6–12 years who had been adopted following at least eight months in a Romanian orphanage (late adoption). Cortisol is produced in response to stress so ongoing high levels of cortisol would suggest that the children are still very stressed and anxious and have not moved on from their early stressful experiences.

Cortisol levels in late-adopted children were found to be significantly higher than levels in 14 children adopted in their first four months and a control group of 15 Canadian-born children. In the late adoption group cortisol levels correlated positively with the time spent in the Romanian orphanage. No difference in cortisol levels was found between the early adoption group and the control group.

Questions

1. State the aim of this study.
2. It was not possible to randomly allocate children to early and late adoption conditions. Explain why this might be a limitation of this study.
3. What would you conclude about the effects of early adoption from an institution based on these results?
4. What would you conclude about the effects of late adoption from an institution based on these results?
5. Compare the results of this study to those from Rutter's ERA study.

Reference

Gunnar, M.R., Morison, S.J., Chisholm, K. and Schuder, M. (2001) Salivary cortisol levels in children adopted from Romanian orphanages. *Development and Psychopathology*, 3, 611-628.

A03 – Evaluation

Use Point-Relevance-Conclude when doing A03 notes – refer to feedback from your assessments on using this paragraph system to best effect / maximum marks.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Real world application	
Fewer confounding variables	Counterpoint: different confounds
	Lack of adult data
Social sensitivity (eXtra) Read: https://www.tutor2u.net/psychology/reference/issues-debates-socially-sensitive-research Write: - A brief definition of socially sensitive research - How this applies to the Romanian orphan studies	

Quiz, Apply It

❑ Complete the quiz to test your understanding
❑ Do the Apply It questions and check your answers – write your answers into your Attachment books after your notes on this topic.