

George, C., Isaacs, M., & Marvin, R. S. (2011). Incorporating attachment assessment into custody evaluations: The case of a 2-year old and her parents. *Family Court Review, 49*, 483-500.

**Author Abstract:**

Attachment with parents is central to a child's development. It is well-established that the quality of this attachment in early childhood is a strong predictor of development and psychological functioning throughout the life span. One of the primary issues in custody evaluations is assessing the quality of the child's attachment to each parent and the parents' capacity to foster security, and to consider what this might mean for short and medium term decisions about their care. The nature of attachment measures are summarized, and the combined use of three attachment-caregiving instruments in a custody evaluation is illustrated through the case of a toddler whose parents were engaged in a high conflict divorce. The case study demonstrates how, in addition to standard clinical observations, including a set of attachment-based instruments with a standardized psychological test battery provided information critical to a recommendation for custody and parent visitation.