

**Title:** The Need to Investigate Reactive Attachment Disorder  
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The effects of pathogenic care in maltreated infancy and early childhood leads to what is known as RAD (Reactive Attachment Disorder). As stated by Zeanah et al. (2002), attachment disorders involve a persistent disturbance in the child's social relatedness that begins before age 5 years and that extends across social situations. Symptoms of RAD include a pattern of disturbed and developmentally inappropriate social relationships prior to age 5 (Hardy, 2007). A history of pathogenic care is associated with symptoms of RAD. Moreover, RAD creates psychological problems in early childhood, and maltreatment during one's early years can lead to a lack of development through which they are unable to cope with strong emotions and thus, become aggressive. Furthermore, RAD presents developmental delays such as comprehensive and cognitive setbacks in infants as early as 9 months, which can lead to speech, social, and verbal deficiencies. Some studies have focused on developmental delays in children with RAD. Richters and Volkmer (1994) have reported that a young girl of six years, suffered from intellectual disability traced to her time spent in multiple foster homes. Treatment for RAD involves promoting the ability to regulate affective response to external stimulus (Hardy, 2007). The genesis of RAD is always trauma; specifically, the severe emotional neglect commonly found in institutional settings (Ellis, 2019). RAD is one of the most poorly understood and least researched of all mental disorders, which is why it is important to investigate RAD to assist those who were maltreated during infancy and early childhood.

## References

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