

## Who is Grahame Williams?

- Bachelor of Social Science— (Counselling & Psychology.)
- Accredited Play Therapist
- Certified Sandplay Therapist.
- Post Grad Dip in Play Therapy.
- Experience in residential care with home-less teenagers: youth worker, manager, family & aftercare worker.
- 17 years Counselling experience.
- Parenting & foster care work shops.
- Groups in schools to help with self esteem, bullying & resilience. (Rock & Water)
- Certificate IV in Workplace T & A.
- Level 4 Member of the Australian Counselling Association.
- Member of Play Therapy International & Association for Play Therapy.

“Reactive Attachment Disorder is a condition in which individuals have difficulty in forming loving, lasting, intimate relationships.

Attachment disorders vary in their severity, but the term is usually reserved for individuals who show a nearly complete lack of ability to be *genuinely* affectionate with others.

They typically fail to develop a conscience and do not learn to trust.”

## “Reactive Attachment Disorder”

A 3 hour workshop for parents /foster carers/ out of home care staff /teachers/educators who have children in their care that have suffered from early childhood trauma — disruptive attachment.

### Agenda

1. What is attachment & attunement.
2. Short history of attachment theory.
3. The two main types of R.A.D plus the how & what.
4. The Brain and R.A.D.
5. How is R.A.D diagnosed.
6. R.A.D ‘Child of Rage’.
7. What doesn’t work.
8. What you can do.
9. Stop the lying, stealing & defiance ( at least reduce it).

### Probability of Reactive Attachment Disorder

Any of the following conditions put a child at high risk.

The critical time is between conception and to 36 months of age.

1. Maternal ambivalence toward pregnancy.
2. In-utero trauma, drugs, alcohol exposure.
3. Abuse (physical, emotional, sexual)).
4. Neglect.
5. Sudden separation from primary caregiver.
6. Undiagnosed or painful illness such as colic or ear infections.
7. Inconsistent or inadequate day care.
8. Chronic maternal depression.
9. Several moves and/or placements (foster care, failed adoptions).
10. Unprepared mothers with poor parenting skills.

## **“Experiences changes the brain”**

Dr Bruce Perry

‘Attachment is the deep & enduring connection established between a child and caregiver in the first several years of their life’

# Reactive Attachment Disorder

## Grahame Williams

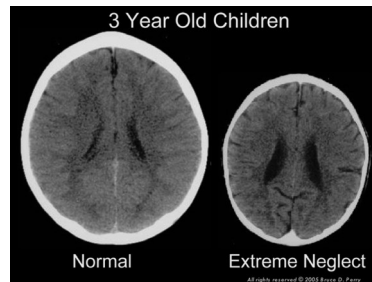
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## Trauma & The Brain



### “Trauma”

Kids that have experienced trauma such as: sexual abuse, violence, neglect, In-utero trauma, drugs, alcohol exposure etc often respond by:

Hurting others Destroying property

Physical and/or verbal aggression

Harassing others Harming animals

Sexual acting out Use drugs

Gamble /Compulsive shopping  
Reckless driving

Sexual stimulation to lift their mood

Agitated (humming, tapping etc)

Disassociation – feel numb, feel like they are looking down on themselves, the feel remote physically and mentally – they depersonalize.

### ‘Attachment’

It is worth noting that the focus of the child’s early relationship with the primary caregiver as the most important predictor of the child’s personality development has only been around for about 60 years!

“the infant & young child should experience a warm, intimate, and continuous relationship with his mother in which both find satisfaction and enjoyment”

John Bowlby 1951

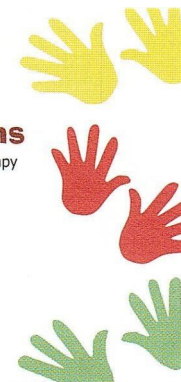
### Hunter Play Therapy

Giving Children a Voice

### Grahame Williams

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### R.A.D Statistics

Among children who have experienced abuse, neglect or both, 87% to 95% show an insecure attachment.

Approximately 2% of the population is adopted & between 50% to 80% of such children have attachment disorder symptoms.

Research has shown that nearly two thirds of children in foster care and 20% of those living in a homeless refuge/ shelter have an attachment disorder.

In prisons in the USA 75% of prisoners are deemed to be suffering from an attachment disorder.

