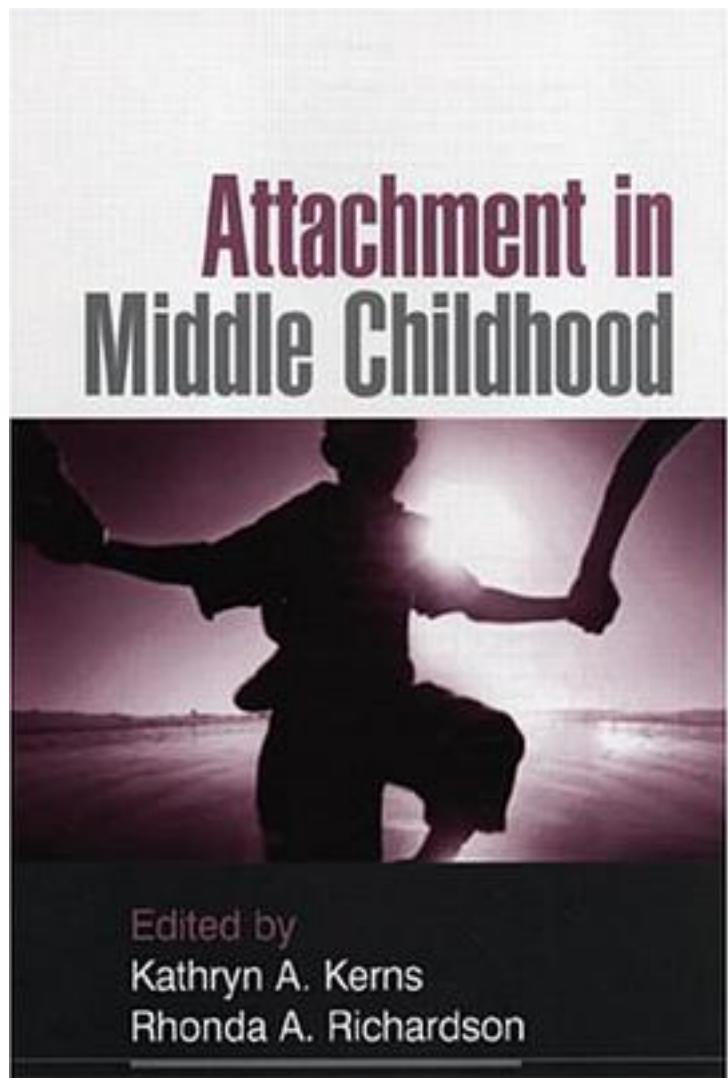


Attachment in Middle Childhood



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A growing body of research has established that individuals who form secure attachments in early childhood or adolescence experience better social adjustment and mental health outcomes. Yet the important years between 6 and 12 have been relatively neglected in the literature. This unique volume is the first to bring together emerging theories and findings on attachment in middle childhood, including the results of key longitudinal studies. Timely and authoritative, it is essential reading for developmentalists, clinicians, and others concerned with the well-being of children and families. With contributions from leading investigators, the book explores the effects on attachment of a wide range of factors in middle childhood, including children's broadening network of social relationships. Compelling data are presented on whether the quality of attachment in middle childhood can be predicted by assessments earlier in life, and what may explain changes over time. Of particular interest, chapters examine the implications of attachment for children's social and emotional functioning, their academic development, and the later emergence of adolescent problems. Also considered are challenges in conceptualizing and assessing attachment during this period, and the strengths and limitations of existing measurement approaches. The concluding chapter offers a thought-provoking commentary on the volume's major themes, identifying areas of scientific progress and highlighting questions and problems that still need to be addressed. Filling a major gap in the literature, this well-integrated volume will spark discussion and debate among researchers and students in developmental and clinical psychology, human development, and family studies, and will also be of interest to clinicians working with children and families. It is a uniquely informative text for advanced undergraduate - and graduate-level courses.

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