

# Specialised foster care in the Netherlands

Rinske Mansens & Rene de Bot

November 2010



# The story of Anna

- 13 years old
- Came in care at 4 years old
- Lived in kinship care and residential care
- Now living in foster care

Mother: Addicted to drugs and alcohol, personality disorder,  
aggressive

Father: Not around



# The story of Anna

## Problems:

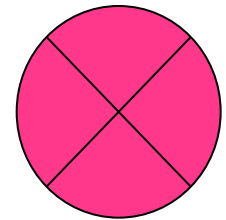
- Learning difficulties
- Low self esteem
- Feeling unwanted, not accepted
- Aggressive
- Difficulties in building relationships



# The first European orphanage in Florence



# LOGGIA + ROTA



# THE WET NURSE:

CHEAP OR FIRST IDEAS ABOUT ATTACHMENT



# From orphan to problem child



# Residential and foster care in the Netherlands

- 18.000 children in foster care
  - 500 family groups
- 10.000 in (small scale) residential care



# Small scale residential care



# Our mission statement

We assist families at home

Sometimes temporary outplacement is necessary

Then we prefer a kinship placement or a foster family

And residential care for special cases

After our assistance children go back to their parents

## Or not

Then we give them education till 18

In a family they know or in a new foster family

Or a family group or in residential care



# Specialised foster care

- Crisis
- Respite care
- Children with psychiatric problems
- Deaf children
- Mentally handicapped children
- Young criminals



# One child one plan

- Residential care + parent coaching
- Residential care + (group) therapy
- Foster care + day care/special school
- Foster care + video interaction training
- Foster care + respite care
- Residential care + weekend foster care
- Trainingcenter (16+) + (weekend) foster care



# Attachment disorder

- Disorders of mood, behavior and social relationships
- Failure to form normal attachments to primary caregivers in early childhood
- Early experiences of neglect, abuse, abrupt separation  
(from 6 months to three year old)

**Missing a feeling of safety**



# Early attachment



Healthy Attachment Cycle

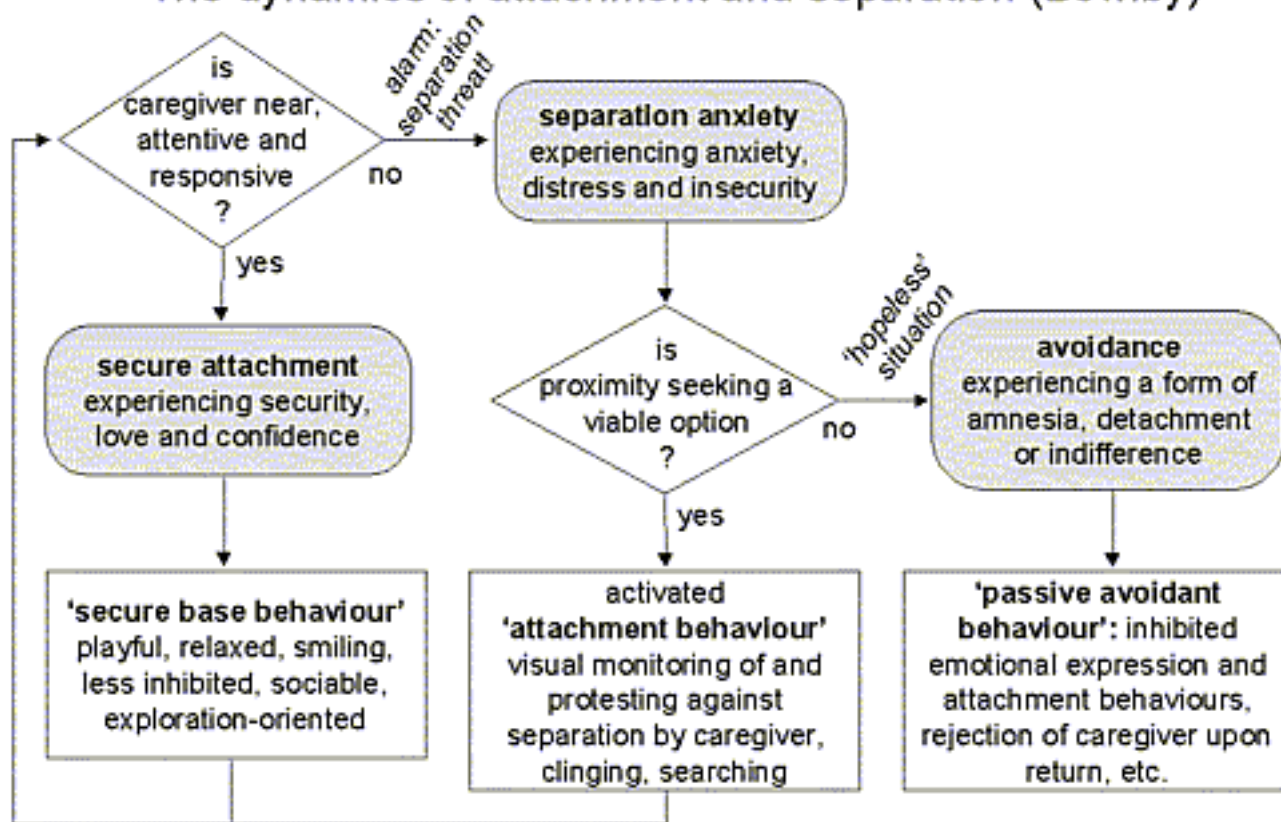


Disturbed Attachment Cycle



# Attachment and Separation

## The dynamics of attachment and separation (Bowlby)



© André H. Roosma, Zoetermeer, NL, April 2002



# Remember Anna?

## Problems:

- Learning difficulties
- Low self esteem
- Feeling unwanted, not accepted
- Aggressive
- Difficulties in building relationships

**Attachment disorder stays,  
even when a child is placed in a safe foster family**

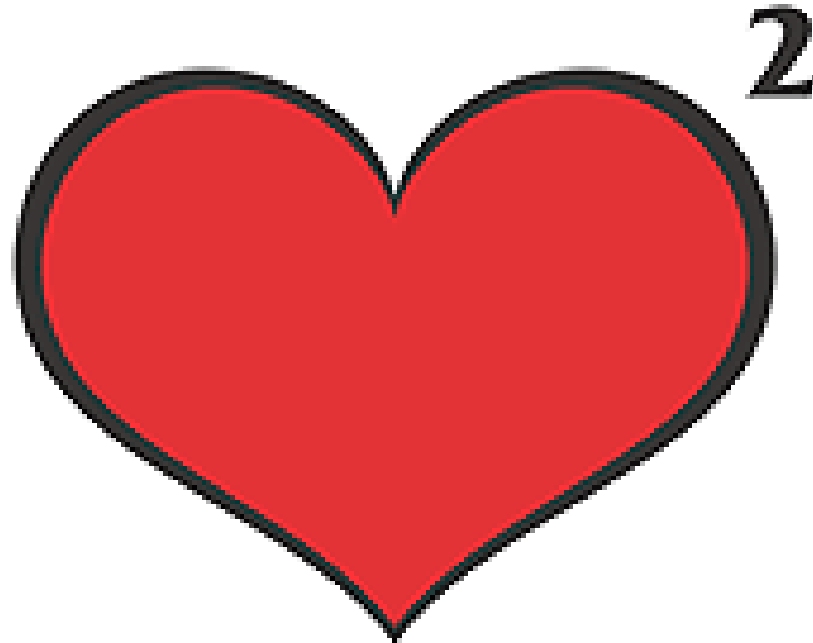


# What to do?

As a fosterparent

- Create a secure basis (you can stay here)
- Positive parenting (focus on the positive, threat instead of punish)
- Promote safe relationships (help find friends)
- Structure (in rules, reactions and boundaries)
- Don't give up (focus on the good things/times)
- Work together (with other fosterfamilies, therapists and teachers)





# Contact

Rene de Bot

Heemraadssingel 121

Rotterdam

Tel. 0031 10 271 8888

E-mail: [renedebot@flexusjeugdplein.nl](mailto:renedebot@flexusjeugdplein.nl)

