

Symptoms of Reactive Attachment Disorder in Children & Adults

Symptoms of RAD in Children

- Superficially charming and engaging, particularly around strangers or those who they feel they can manipulate
- Indiscriminate affection, often to strangers; but not affectionate on parent's terms
- Problems making eye contact, except when angry or lying
- A severe need to control everything and everyone; worsens as the child gets older
- Hypervigilant
- Hyperactive, yet lazy in performing tasks
- Argumentative, often over silly or insignificant things
- Frequent tantrums or rage, often over trivial issues
- Demanding or clingy, often at inappropriate times
- Trouble understanding cause and effect
- Poor impulse control
- Lacks morals, values, and spiritual faith
- Little or no empathy; often have not developed a conscience
- Cruelty to animals
- Lying for no apparent reason
- False allegations of abuse
- Destructive to property or self
- Stealing
- Constant chatter; nonsense questions
- Abnormal speech patterns; uninterested in learning communication skills
- Developmental / Learning delays
- Fascination with fire, blood and gore, weapons, evil; will usually make the bad choice
- Problems with food; either hoarding it or refusing to eat
- Concerned with details, but ignoring the main issues
- Few or no long term friends; tend to be loners
- Attitude of entitlement and self-importance
- Sneaks things without permission even if he could have had them by asking
- Triangulation of adults; pitting one against the other
- A darkness behind the eyes when raging

Symptoms of RAD in Adults

- Avoidant
- Unreasonable or inappropriate anger
- Hostile
- Overcritical of others and self
- Intolerant of rules and authority
- Lack of empathy or remorse
- Views others as untrustworthy and unreliable
- Shallow/Vain
- Feelings of self-importance
- Feelings of entitlement or arrogance
- Self-reliance; prefers to work alone than with others
- Views relationships as threatening, or not worth the effort
- May be a workaholic, as a way of avoiding relationships
- Feelings of being unique
- Grandiose or unrealistic fantasies
- Anxious/Ambivalent
- Compulsive caregiving
- Feels underappreciated
- Many short-term relationships
- Idealizes others
- Possessive; makes unrealistic demands of partners in relationships
- Preoccupied with relationships, and easily makes declarations of affection
- Obtains feelings of security through relationships
- Sees relationships as imbalanced
- Oversensitive to rejection, easily gives in to jealousy
- Sees others as being difficult to understand
- Unable to understand the concept of altruism
- Extreme emotions

May Also Include

- Prone to depression
- Socially inappropriate behavior
- Impulsive
- Manipulative
- Risk-taking
- Self-mutilating behavior
- Often do not remember much of childhood experiences
- Darkness behind the eyes when angered
- At risk of abusing their own children
- Children with RAD may become adults diagnosed with sociopathic, narcissistic, antisocial, or borderline disorder