

Stages of Development

Age	Stage
Babies 0 – 2 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need constant connection with the primary caregiver to support development. • Do not discriminate one person from another – no fear of strangers.
Infants 2 – 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need constant connection with the primary caregiver to support development. • Infant prefers the primary caregiver – but does not protest when separated. • If not breastfeeding can spend an hour or two away from primary caregiver.
Toddlers 6 months – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most important relationship is with primary caregiver. • Building relationships with other attachment figures. • Needs structured care routine e.g., feeding, sleep etc. • Separation anxiety: may cry and resist when separated from primary caregiver.
School Aged Children 6 – 12 yrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have their own schedule. • If a secure attachment has been formed children at this age are able to spend increasing amounts of time away from primary caregiver e.g., overnights, school holidays. • Children at this age may imagine parents reconciling or express anger and resentment about separation. • While shared time is not suitable for all children, at this age, children are better able to adapt to this type of arrangement. • As puberty approaches children may seek to spend more time with the parent who is the same gender as them.
Adolescents 13 – 18 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of attachment pattern which had developed during childhood will inform the way an adolescent wants to spend time with parents at this stage of their life. • Focus for adolescent is making things easier with the growing demands of school and social commitments. • Both parents should expect an adolescent to prioritise peer relationships as these are important in development of independence. • Adolescents often also prefer to have one primary residence.