

Educational Implications

Many of these students will have developmental delays in several domains. The caregiver-child relationship provides the vehicle for developing physically, emotionally, and cognitively. In this relationship the child learns language, social behaviors, and other important behaviors and skills. The lack of these experiences can result in delays in motor, language, social, and cognitive development. The student may have difficulty completing homework. They often fail to remember assignments and/or have difficulty understanding assignments with multiple steps. They may have problems with comprehension, especially long passages of text. Fluctuations in energy and motivation may be evident, and they may often have difficulty concentrating. The student with RAD often feels a need to be in control and may exhibit bossy, argumentative, and/or defiant behavior, which may result in frequent classroom disruptions and power struggles with teachers.

Resources

Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children (ATTACH)

95 West Grand Avenue, Suite 206
Lake Villa, IL 60046
www.attach.org

International coalition of professionals and families concerned with RAD

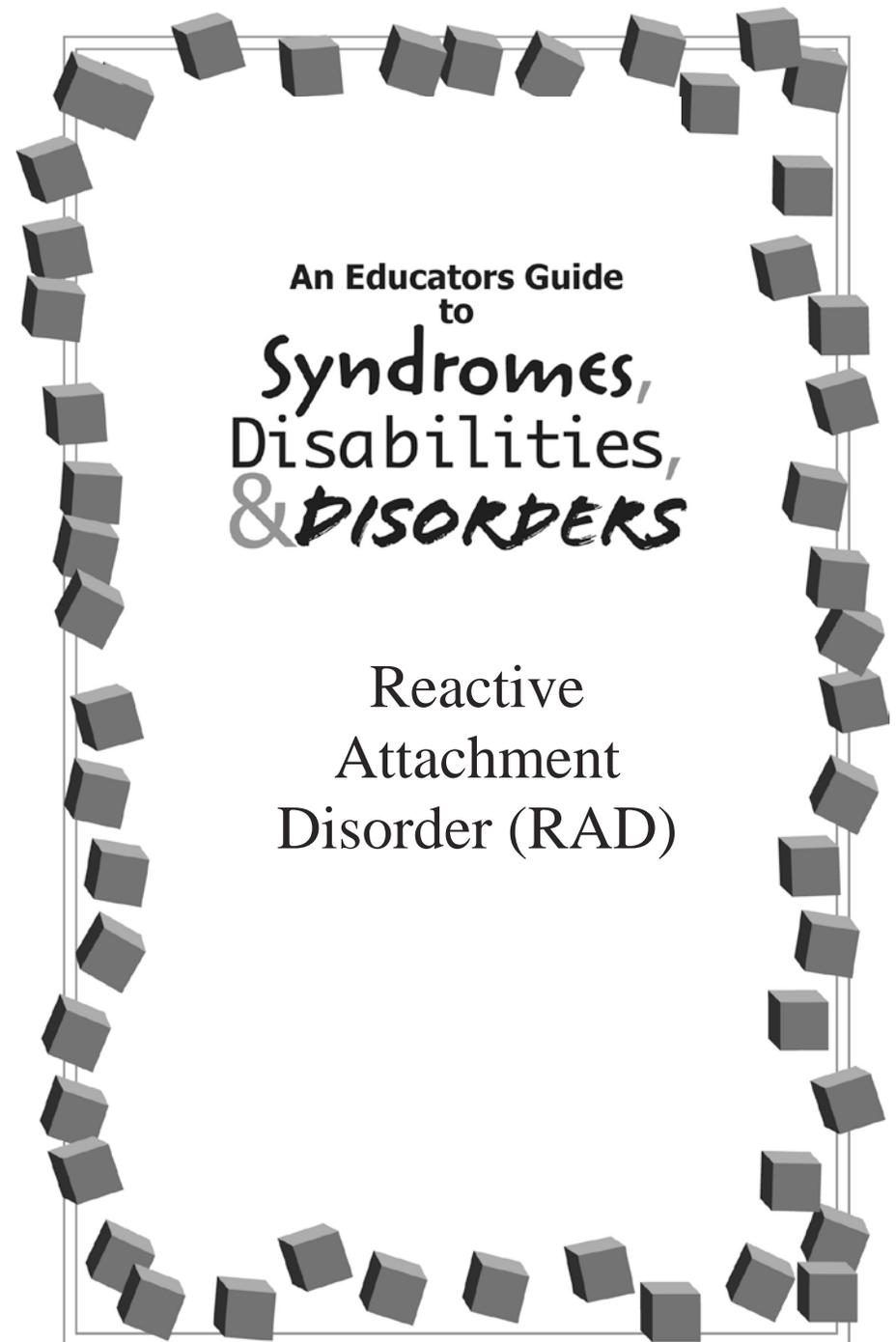
Families by Design/ Nancy Thomas Parenting

PO Box 2812
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602
970-984-2222
www.attachment.org

Articles, referrals, training, publications on holding therapy, therapeutic parenting, and more

www.RADKID.org

Online resource center for RAD and related mental health issues



Symptoms or Behaviors

- Destructive to self and others
- Absence of guilt or remorse
- Refusal to answer simple questions
- Denial of accountability—always blaming others
- Poor eye contact
- Extreme defiance and control issues
- Stealing
- Lack of cause and effect thinking
- Mood swings
- False abuse allegations
- Sexual acting out
- Inappropriately demanding or clingy
- Poor peer relationships
- Abnormal eating patterns
- Preoccupied with gore, fire
- Toileting issues
- No impulse control
- Chronic nonsensical lying
- Unusual speech patterns or problems
- Bossy—needs to be in control
- Manipulative—superficially charming and engaging

Instructional Strategies and Classroom Accommodations

- Consider a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA). Understanding the purpose or function of the student's behaviors will help you respond with effective interventions. For example, a punitive approach or punishment may increase the student's sense of insecurity and distress and consequently increase the undesired behavior.
- Be predictable, consistent, and repetitive. Students with RAD are very sensitive to changes in schedules, transitions, surprises, and chaotic social situations. Being predictable and consistent will help the student to feel safe and secure, which in turn will reduce anxiety and fear.
- Model and teach appropriate social behaviors. One of the best ways to teach these students social skills is to model the behavior and then narrate for the child what you are doing and why.
- Avoid power struggles. When intervening, present yourself in a light and matter of fact style. This reduces the student's desire to control the situation. When possible use humor. If students can get an emotional response from you, they will feel as though they have hooked you into the struggle for power and they are winning.
- Address comprehension difficulties by breaking assigned reading into manageable segments. Monitor progress by periodically checking if the student understands the material.
- Break assignments into manageable steps to help clarify complex, multi-step directions.
- Identify a place for the student to go to regain composure during times of frustration and anxiety. Do this only if the student is capable of using this technique and there is an appropriate supervised location.