

Chapter 11

Stem Stories

Dating back to Bretherton et al. (1990), who studied the response patterns of kids, classical conflict constellations were investigated. FOR EXAMPLE the child doll spills her juice. Now, the child shall play what is happening next. Other stories are:

- The hot soup: Although forbidden by the mother, the child takes the hot soup pot, pours it over itself and burns its own hand.
- The disappearance of Barney: The child goes into the garden to play with the dog Barney, but Barney is not there.
- The Lost Key: The child comes into the room and hears how mother and father are arguing because of a lost key.
- Exclusion: Father and mother want to be alone and send the child to their room to play.
- Mother's headaches: the mother has a headache and asks Susan / George to turn off the TV. Now the friend comes by and is eager to watch TV.
- At Third: The child and friend play with his new ball. Then the little brother comes out of the house and wants to play, but the friend does not want this.
- The Sand Castle: A small child in the park has built a sand castle. The friend says to the child: "Come on, let's destroy the sand castle of the small child."
- Cowardly Dog: The family is at the park and the kid shoots the ball further and further away from the family. Suddenly there is a scary dog which barks loudly. The child expresses fear.
- Monsters in the Dark: The family is on the lower floor, while the child plays upstairs in the bedroom. Suddenly the lights go out and the child hears a noise. The child thinks it's a monster.
- New neighbors: The family has moved to a new area. The child is invited to a party at the neighbors, but knows none of the new kids on the party.
- Song: The child stands in front of an audience and should / will sing a song. It cannot remember the text at that moment.
- Fight with a friend: The child is playing with a ball; the friend comes over and grabs it, injuring the child's hand.
- Favorite chair (sibling conflict): The child sits in their favorite chair. The sibling pushes them down because they would sit there themselves. In the scuffle, the child injures his foot.
- Waiting for the sisters: The child looks forward to lunch and still has to wait for his siblings.
- Disease of the sibling: The child comes home and discovers that the brother or sister is very sick and the mother is exhausted, laying her head on the table.
- Bicycle crash: The child falls off its bicycle near its parents, hurts itself and is bleeding.
- Loss history: The child yearns for many days to visit a friend. But the mother tells the child that they cannot go.
- Failure with homework: The child is alone at home, does not understand the homework and is desperate.

Bretherton, I., Ridgeway, D. & Cassidy, J. (1990). Assessing internal working models of the attachment relationship. An attachment story completion task for 3-year olds. In M.T. Greenberg, D. Cicchetti & E.M. Cummings (Eds.), *Attachment in the preschool years* (pp. 273–310). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press