

# The Impact of Day Care on Child Social and Emotional Development

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**Abstract.** The article presents theory and research about the impact of day care on child social and emotional development. It covers three primary issues from three generations of day care research. Those issues are the impact of non-maternal care on child development, the quality of care itself and the effect of the quality of childcare and the various factors in the home environment. Factors affecting the relationship of day care and child development are pointed out. The article also evaluates those issues in the Indonesian context and concludes that the second and third issue are more relevant.

Key words: day-care, social and emotional development, theory of attachment, non-maternal care, home environment

**Abstrak.** Artikel ini menyajikan teori dan riset dampak penitipan anak (*day care*) terhadap perkembangan sosial dan emosionalnya. Ini meliputi 3 isu utama dari 3 generasi riset tentang penitipan anak. Isu-isu tersebut meliputi dampak asuhan bukan-oleh-ibu terhadap perkembangan anak, kualitas pengasuhannya sendiri dan dampak kualitas pengasuhan dan berbagai faktor di lingkungan rumah. Faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi hubungan pengasuhan di penitipan dan perkembangan telah dikemukakan. Artikel ini juga mengevaluasi isu-isu dalam konteks Indonesia dan menyimpulkan bahwa isu-isu kedua dan ketiga yang lebih relevan.

Kata kunci: penitipan anak, perkembangan sosial dan emosional, teori kelekatan, asuhan bukan-oleh-ibu, lingkungan rumah

The problem of childcare in the modern world is critical. A dramatic increase in maternal employment has caused a greater demand for alternative childcare arrangements. The alternatives vary from a babysitter or relatives at one's home, family day-care in another's home, to a day-care centre. It is important, then, to raise the issue whether the type of care has any effect on child social and emotional development. However, researchers have presented no consensus on this problem. Some studies have shown a negative impact, whereas other

studies report a positive effect or even no effect of non-maternal care on child development (Belsky & Steinberg, 1978; Belsky, 1988). Recent studies have argued that other factors such as family and home environment, and also the quality of childcare, have moderated or mediated the effect (Howes, 1990; Deater-Deckard, Pinkerton, & Scarr, 1996).

This article will examine theory and research about the impact of day care on child social and emotional development. It will cover three primary issues from three