

INSTITUT
DU MARIAGE ET
DE LA FAMILLE
CANADA



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**Social justice and the family: Connecting the dots between
poverty, justice and strong families.**

THE PEER FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT

Presented by: Dr. Gabor Maté

*Action has meaning only in relationship and without understanding relationship,
action on any level will only breed conflict. The understanding of relationship is infinitely
more important than the search for any plan of action.*

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March 12, 2009

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Peer Orientation: Children looking to each other for values, for direction, for cues to how to be-- how to talk, how to look, for what is important to pursue

Attachment: the drive for closeness and contact, physical and emotional

Attachment Voids

The Six Ways of Attaching

1. Senses
2. Sameness
3. Belonging and Loyalty
4. Significance
5. Feeling
6. Being known

How Attachment Supports Parenting

1. Arranges the parent and child hierarchically
2. Evokes the parenting instincts
3. Commands the child's attention
4. Keeps the child close to the parent
5. Makes a model out of the parent
6. Designates the parent as the primary cue giver
7. Makes the child want to be good for the parent

Peer Orientation Stunts Healthy Development

1. The flight from feeling
2. Immaturity, lack of individuality
3. Aggression
4. The making of bullies and victims
5. Precocious, inappropriate sexuality
6. Unteachability

Counterwill: Understanding Oppositionality

The Teachability Factor: How Peer Orientation Undermines Learning

The four types of learning:

1. Curiosity
2. Adaptivity, trial-and-error
3. Integrative learning
4. Attachment-based learning

How to Hold On To Our Kids (Or To Reclaim Them)

1. Collecting the child
2. Inviting dependence
3. Make the relationship the priority
4. Structures and restrictions
5. Attachment-friendly discipline

Preventing Peer Orientation

1. Don't court the competition
 - peers are not the answer to socialization problems, shyness, lack of siblings
 - the stress of daycare in the absence of attachment
2. Recreate the attachment village
3. Who the adults are being for the child