

## **Symposium: The Parents Interview**

Andrea Landini, MD & Rebecca Carr-Hopkins MSc

Andrea Landini, M.D., is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, specializing in Cognitive-Constructivist Psychotherapy. For two decades, he collaborated with Crittenden in the development of the Dynamic-Maturational Model, translating four books of her writings in Italian, publishing many chapters of his own, and participating in numerous research projects. He teaches the DMM and its assessment methods in Italy and internationally. His clinical practice includes psychotherapy with adults and adolescents, work with parents, supervision of staff caring for out-of-home youth, and supervision of psychotherapy students. He is a founding member of the International Association for the Study of Attachment.

Rebecca Carr-Hopkins is a qualified social worker with over twenty years experience as a practitioner and manager in child protection. She has trained extensively in the field of child and adult attachment having completed the MSc in Attachment Studies at the University of Roehampton the Adult Attachment Interview (AAI), CARE Index method of assessing parent infant/toddler, Pre-School Assessment of Attachment (PAA), School Age Assessment of Attachment (SAA) and the Parent's Interview (PI). She has been training others in the CARE-Index and Adult Attachment Interview since 2011 and uses the full range of DMM assessments routinely in her assessment work for Local Authorities and the family court.

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The Parents Interview is a semi-structured interview developed for use with maltreating and adequate parents of young children (Crittenden et al, 1991). It consists of a series of questions that asks parents to consider (a) their childhood experience, (b) their functioning together, and (c) how they work together to raise the children. A particular feature of the PI is that the children are present and, although there are toys and activities for them, the parents are asked to manage both the interview and the children.

Managing multiple stressful situations at one time simulates the conditions that elicit parenting problems. Unlike other assessments of attachment, the PI explores how the couple works together in the relationship by looking at how they work together to answer the questions.

Ms Carr-Hopkins will present material from a recent court case in which the Parents Interview yielded insight into a key aspect of the couple's functioning that was tied to risk for their baby.

### **Objectives**

1. The operational aspects of administering and coding a Parents Interview
2. The clinical applications of the tool
3. Insight into potential value of the tool through a case study