Attachment is an intimate relationship that influences social behaviour – from hamsters to Homo sapiens. The type of attachment behaviour we develop is often determined at a very early age. What happens, for instance, if a child does not experience optimal care? The attachment theory was propounded by the British psychoanalyst John Bowlby in the 1950s. Since that time, much research has been done in various fields and some apparent contradictions are now being resolved. This book gives us a clear insight into how attachment arises and is developed in early childhood. Leading German researchers explain which factors influence the development of attachment, how attachment affects social behaviour and what causes dysfunction. The research is based on the principles of developmental psychology, psychoanalysis, behavioural research, neuropsychology and linguistics.

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**Target groups**
Teachers and students of psychology, psychiatry, paediatrics and education as well as all those who care for and educate children and teenagers, those in early intervention, educationalists, special and remedial teachers, social educators.