

PROBLEM: NUMBER of CHILDREN PRESCRIBED DRUGS

- **RISING RATES OF MENTAL PROBLEMS AMONG CHILDREN & ADOLESCENCE**
 - *1 NATURE OF CRISIS*
 - *2 CAUSES*
 - *3 SOLVE CRISIS -*
 - ‘Our intellectual models are inadequate’
 - **The Pharmacological Model**



PROBLEM: NUMBER of “ADHD” CHILDREN PRESCRIBED DRUGS

Table 1

- **Dexamphetamine prescribing in Australia (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)).**
- **Methylphenidate is not on PBS (Figures from Australian Health Insurance Commission (HIC), 2004)**

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasm.	Australian Capital Territory	Northern Territory	TOTAL
1992-93	6572	1691	2703	2323	3604	196	201	82	17,372
2002-03	67250	35605	39397	21217	92452	9878	3459	800	270,058
X Times	10	21	15	9	26	50	17	10	16

MEDICATING CHILDREN

Stress, Trauma & PTSD in Childhood

Kidnap,
hostage

War & torture
atrocities

Witness to
rape, suicide,
murder

Abuse:
physical or
sexual

Accidental
injury, burns,
bites, toxins

Life-
threatening
illness

Medical
procedures

Road, plane or
ship accidents ? emotional
abuse

MEDICATING CHILDREN: Classes of Psychotropic Medications

- **CLASSES of MEDICATION**
- 1 **ANTI-DEPRESSANTS** (Tricyclic, SSRI)
- 2 **ANTI-ANXIETY** (Major/Minor)
- 3 **ANTI-PSYCHOTIC**
- 4 **MOOD STABILIZERS**
- 5 **STIMULANTS** (dexamph, methylphen.)

MEDICATING CHILDREN: *Deciding on Classes of Psychotropic Medications*

- **1 assess thoroughly: developmental context**
- **2 diagnose: avoid bias**
- **3 explain reason for medication**
- **4 explain side effects**
- **5 explain duration and review**
- **6 REGULAR FOLLOW-UP & REVIEW**
- **7 STOP MEDICATION IF NOT RESPONDING**

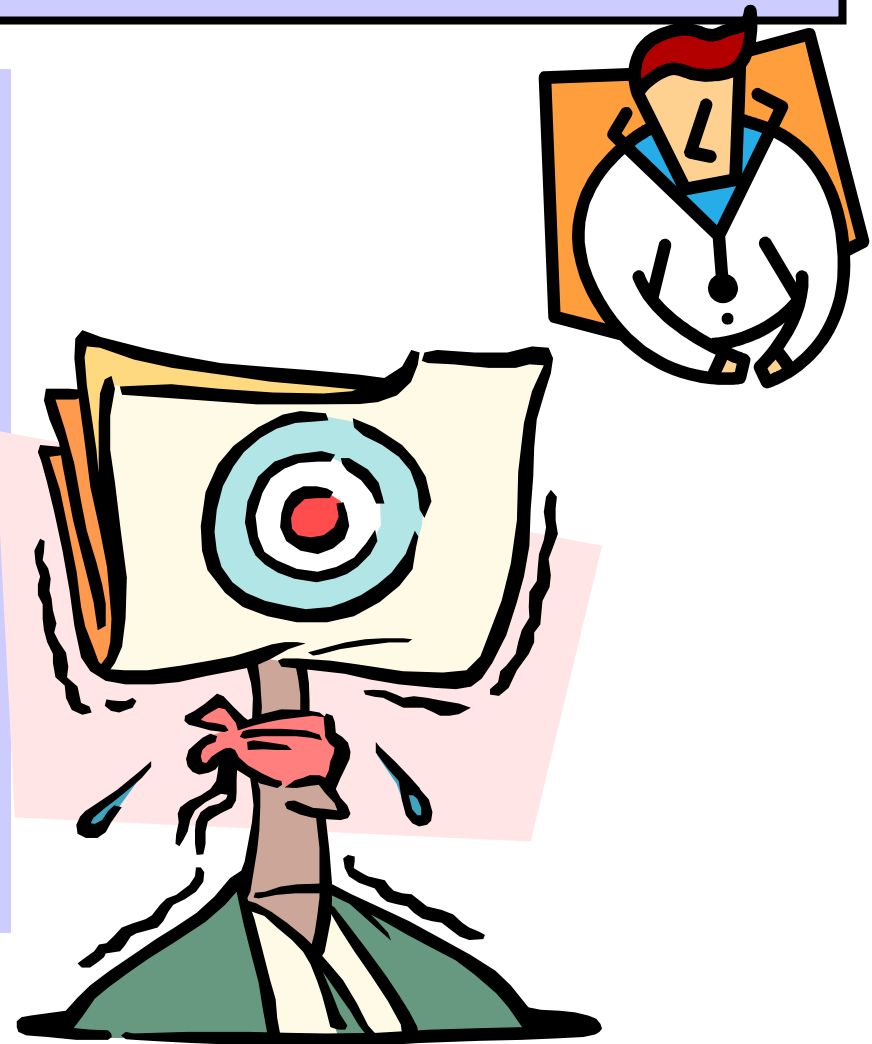
MEDICATING CHILDREN: *TREATMENT* or *'PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT'*?

- **Patterns of Attachment in Infancy**
- *SECURE (B)* - 55-65%
- *AVOIDANT (A)* - 20-25%
- *RESISTANT/AMBIVALENT (C)* - 10-15%
- *DISORGANIZED/DISORIENTED (D)* 15-20%
- *OTHER*



PILL TIME...?

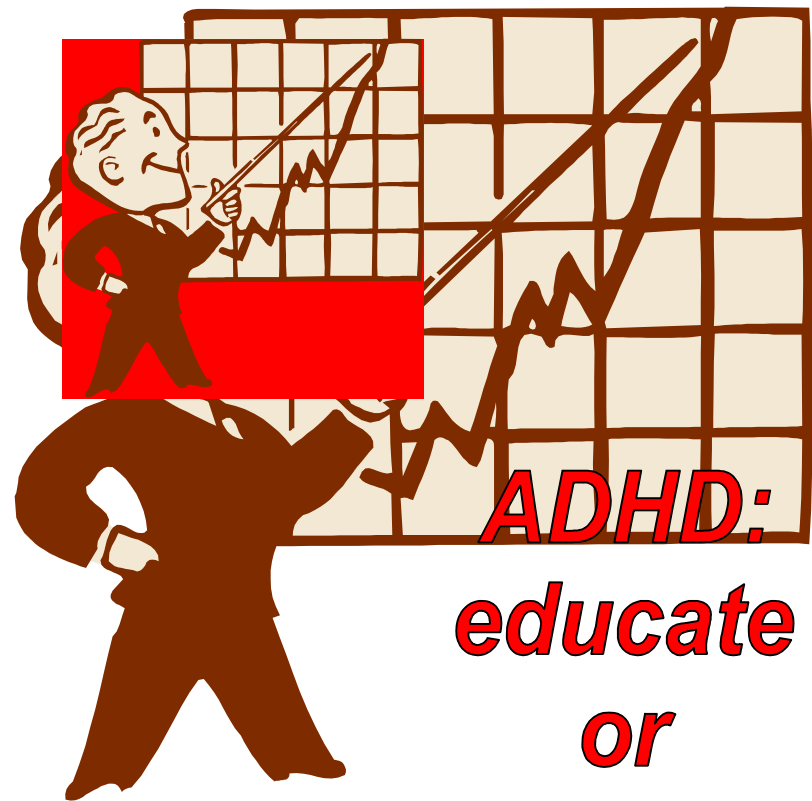
- **Family Early Intervention Program, Perth, W.A.**
- The Trauma of Depression in Infants F.T. Salo (in *Cries Unheard*, 2002)
- 18month-old Craig ? 'ADHD' or *SO SAD* or *SO ANXIOUS*
- Attachment systems built on core depression
- Mo-Infant Regulation - Dysregulation systems



MEDICATING CHILDREN

- **‘DISEASE MONGERING’**: process of expanding definitions of illness
- **‘Manufactured Epidemics’**: the creation of new categories of disorders.

- **Concept of REPARATIVE MOMENTS**
- **cycles of dysregulation ‘repaired’**
- **concept of ‘moments of meeting’**



ADHD:
*educate
or
medicate?*

PILL TIME...?

ADHD What is it? What is it not?

- **ADHD** attention & hyperactivity **symptoms**
- *attention or *attachment deficit*
- *hyperactivity or *hyper-Re-activity*
- **W.H.O.: BY 2020 MENTAL DISORDERS ARE PREDICTED TO BE THE 2nd HIGHEST CAUSES OF DISEASE BURDEN.**
- www.abc.net.au/rn ABC Radio National 19 June '04
ALL IN THE MIND

References

- **1 Efficacy and safety of antidepressants for children and adolescents. J N Jureidini et al. BMJ 2004;328;879-83.<bmj.com>**
- **2 How we fail to care for children of mentally ill parents: psychological revisionism in child mental health care. Halasz G. In Children of Parents with Mental Illness. Personal and Clinical Perspectives. (Ed) V Cowling. Melbourne: A.C.E.R. (2004)p 213-232. <www.acerpress.com.au>**
- **3 Cries Unheard. A new look at attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Halasz G., Anaf G., Ellingsen P., Manne A., Thomson Salo F. Common Ground: Altona, 2002. <www.thehumanities.com>**
- **4 ABC Radio *All in the Mind*. 19 June 2004. <www.abc.net.au/rn>**
- **5 ADHD: What is it? What is it not? Video (18 min.approx.) <www.reflection2020.com>**

