



We are committed to promoting better experiences of attachment to enhance our relationships between ourselves, our children and our society.

Find us on

<http://www.iaia.ie/>

Email: info@iaia.ie

 [@iaia.matters](https://www.facebook.com/iaia.matters)

 <https://twitter.com/IrishAttachment>



Irish Attachment
In Action

My input today

- 20 minutes on the Scottish Attachment in Action experience
- 20 minutes discussion

- 20 minutes on Why Attachment Matters
- 20 minutes discussion

- 20 minutes on Attachment in Educational Settings
- 20 minutes discussion

Why Attachment Matters

- Attachment keeps us safe
- Our attachment figures sooth us when we are too stressed
- Our attachment figures activate us when we need stimulation
- Attachment helps us understand the world
- Attachment helps us navigate the social world



The story of Scottish Attachment in Action



Scotland and Ireland

As UNICEF declares ‘The true measure of a nation’s standing is how well it attends to its children - their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialization, and their sense of being loved, valued, and included in the families and societies into which they are born.’

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (2007) Child poverty in perspective: An overview of child well-being in rich countries’ Report Card 7



A brief history



2006 - 'Scoping Day' supported by Crossreach and Aberlour. Passionate professional and parent/carer parent interest and campaigning group formed! Health, social care, voluntary sector, academia, policy, parents all represented. The first session was facilitated

2008 - Constituted as Scottish Attachment In Action

2009 - SAIA is launched, with a conference , as a membership organisation supported by SIRCC and IRISS

2015 - SAIA becomes a SCIO (SCO4578)

What do we set out to do?



Attachment Matters For All

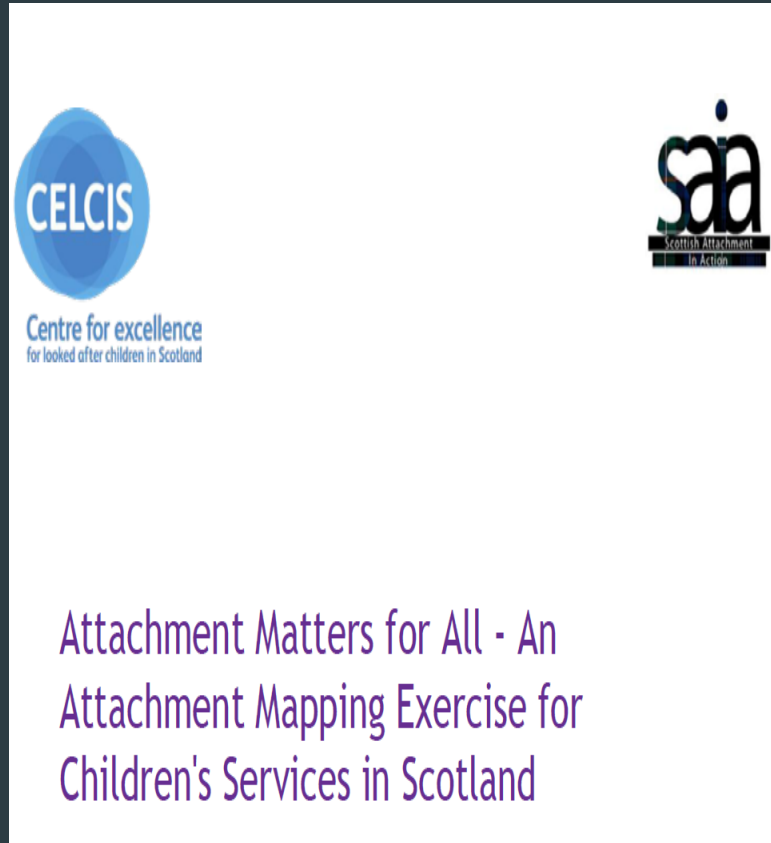
We are committed to promoting more secure experiences of attachment in the Scottish population and to effect positive changes in policy and practice in education health and social care

Keeping it Real

What have we been up to?

- Lobbying the government and contributing to policy development eg. early years framework, children's workforce common core, LACSIG
- Eight annual attachment-informed annual conferences - 'Why attachment matters in play, touch, education, therapy, the teenage years...' . Most recently (2016) SAIA hosted the DDP International Conference - 'The Power of DDP'
- Three annual **network seminars** across Scotland - topics have included developmental trauma, education, FASD, attachment research, residential care
- Bespoke training - SCMA, Fostering Relations, South Lanarkshire Council, Angus Council
- Website resources and Publications:

SAIA publications and resources in collaboration with Scottish Government, SIRCC, CELCIS, IRISS, Cairnsmoir Connections, Adapt Scotland





What have we achieved?



1. We contributed in the mid-2000's to the shift towards embedding attachment in the legislative framework, policy and practice. We continue to be 'politically' involved when we can eg part of the consultation on the 'Common Core' and we will have a voice in the review of child care being chaired by Fiona Duncan
2. We have contributed to research eg the mapping exercise 'Attachment Matters for All' and promote/support research when we can
3. Our membership and events are truly 'open to all' having organisational membership and individual - professionals AND parents/carers in partnership
4. We embrace partnership working and have worked successfully with SIRCC, CELCIS, IRISS, CairnsMoir Connections, ADAPT Scotland and others.



What have we achieved?



5. We provide high quality, reasonably priced training and free high quality resources via our website including our membership bulletins which are read by many hundreds of people now!
6. We involve our membership by listening to their feedback and in encouraging them to contribute/provide resources
7. We are self-sustaining with no core funding
8. Most importantly our ethos: since 2006 our committee, and now our Board and development workers, are passionate about what we do and how we do it. There is little to no preciousness in our organisation. We strive to be warm, welcoming, hospitable, transparent, proactive, efficient and responsive.
9. Organisations and individuals have been very generous with their time and resources.

Why has it “gelled”?

- Despite our disparate backgrounds we share a passionate interest in promoting understanding of attachment
- This allowed us to shelve our differences to work on a common language
- We are quite a silly bunch, and believe in the power of scones and coffee!

Now its your turn

- Who is in the audience?
- What do you want to achieve?
- Who do you think your members will be?
- Do you foresee any conflicts/challenges?
- Any specifically Irish issues to tackle?
- Other thoughts?

Now its your turn

- Who is in the audience?
- What do you want to achieve?
- Who do you think your members will be?
- Do you foresee any conflicts/challenges?
- Any specifically Irish issues to tackle?
- Other thoughts?