

The Episode of the Strange Situation

Number of Episode	Persons Present	Duration	Brief Description of Action
1	Mother, baby, and observer	30 seconds	Observer introduces mother and baby to experimental room, then leaves.
2	Mother and baby	3 minutes	Mother is non-participant while baby explores; if necessary, play is stimulated after 2 minutes.
3	Stranger, mother, and baby	3 minutes	Stranger enters. Minute 1: stranger silent. Minute 2: stranger converses with mother. Minute 3: stranger approaches baby. After 3 minutes mother leaves unobtrusively.
4	Stranger and baby	3 minutes or less ^a	First separation episode. Stranger's behavior is geared to that of baby.
5	Mother and baby	3 minutes or more ^b	First reunion episode. Mother greets and comforts baby then tries to settle him again in play. Mother then leaves, saying bye-bye.
6	Baby alone	3 minutes or less ^a	Second separation episode.
7	Stranger and baby	3 minutes or less ^a	Continuation of second separation. Stranger enters and gears her behavior to that of baby.
8	Mother and baby	3 minutes	Second reunion episode. Mother enters, greets baby, then picks him up. Meanwhile stranger leaves unobtrusively.

^aEpisode is curtailed if the baby is unduly distressed.

^bEpisode is prolonged if more time is required for the baby to become involved in play.

Source: Campos et al., 1983.