**Bonding & Attachment issues**

When the process of bonding and attachment is interrupted, or does not occur at all, infants and children can develop specific problems in one or more of these areas. These can manifest as behavioral, emotional and learning difficulties as well as possible developmental delays. The degree of disturbance can vary from quite mild to severe.

Potential causes of disturbed bonding & attachment:

* **Prenatal Causes** – including unwanted pregnancies, in utero drug and alcohol exposure as well as violence, illness and extreme or prolonged stress during pregnancy.

• **Premature Birth** and/or other significant birth trauma

* **Maternal post-natal depression**

• **Early Hospitalisation**

• **Separation from a Primary Carer**

**• Adoption**

* **Frequent moves and/or placements**
* **Insensitive Parenting** - lacking respect, discipline, consistency and sensitivity
* **Abuse and neglect**