Comparison of Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) and Patterns of Attachment

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| **Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) Diagnosis** | **Patterns of Attachment**  (Secure, Ambivalent/Resistant, Avoidant, Disorganized Classification) |
| Classification of an individual. | Classification of a caregiver-child relationship.  E.g. an infant or young child can have an ambivalent/resistant attachment relationship with mother and a secure attachment relationship with father. |
| Focus is maladaptive behavior. | Focus is adaptive behavior.  E.g. pattern of attachment provides information about how this particular child has adapted to this particular caregiver and caregiving context in order to get their attachment needs met. |
| Psychiatric diagnosis. | Protective factor (secure) or risk factor (insecure). |

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