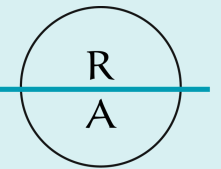


# 6 Tricky Symptoms of Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)



RAD ADVOCATES

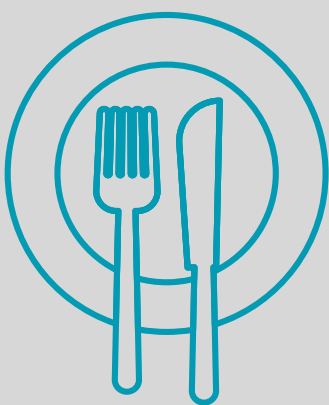
## LACK OF TRUST IN ADULTS AND CONTROLLING BEHAVIORS

When children experience early trauma, they struggle to trust others. And rightly so. In order to survive, the brain wires itself to control the environment. Yet, the maladaptive behaviors remain even with safe adults. The innate need for control creates many problems for the children themselves and in their families.



## ABNORMAL EATING PATTERNS

Many children with reactive attachment disorder use food as a form of control or are reacting to food deprivation from a young age. For example, the child may steal and hoard food out of fear of not having enough. The child may also overeat, undereat, or eat strange things. The maladaptive brain doesn't always alert the child of feelings of fullness, hunger, or if something is good or rotten, etc. The child may also purposely starve, etc. to gain attention/control.



## LACK OF CAUSE & EFFECT THINKING

Trauma isn't "logical". When a parent abuses a child for a soiled diaper, for example, logic is lost. These experiences wire the brain improperly, leaving a child with reactive attachment disorder to lack logical cause-and-effect thinking long after the trauma has passed.

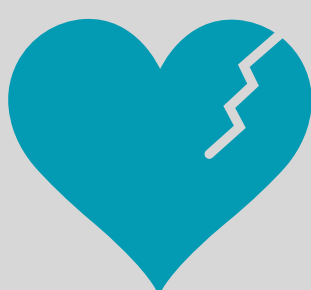


## CHRONIC LYING, STEALING AND ARGUING & POOR IMPULSE CONTROL

When young children experience trauma, the brain gets "stuck" in that stage developmentally. Many reactive attachment disorder behaviors mimic those of a toddler, including poor impulse control and entitlement as a result.

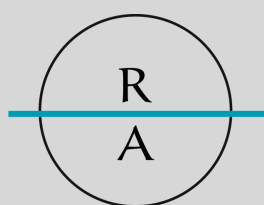
## HYPERVIGILANCE

Early trauma wires a child's brain for survival. Children with reactive attachment disorder are extremely aware of their surroundings. They often have a keen sense of sound and sight.



## HARMFUL TO SELF, OTHERS AND THINGS

Many children with reactive attachment disorder harm themselves or others and break things to gain control.



RAD ADVOCATES

RAD Advocates supports those raising children with RAD and advocates and educates on their behalf. If you need support yourself or want to support this mission, visit [radadvocates.org](http://radadvocates.org).