

## Spotting Separation Anxiety in Children: Recognizing Signs and Providing Support

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA, August 22, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Separation anxiety, a common developmental phase, can present in children as they struggle with temporary distress when separated from their primary caregivers or familiar environments. While some level of anxiety is normal, it's important for parents and caregivers to recognize the signs and provide appropriate support to help children navigate this phase successfully.



Separation anxiety typically peaks between the ages of 8 months and 2

years, but it can also resurface during transitional periods or life changes. Understanding the manifestations of separation anxiety is crucial for creating a supportive environment that helps children build emotional resilience.

## Signs of Separation Anxiety in Children:

- 1. Excessive Clinging: Children may become clingier, insisting on being held or staying close to their caregivers even when it seems unnecessary.
- 2. Fear of Separation: A strong fear of being separated from caregivers or reluctance to attend school or daycare might indicate separation anxiety.
- 3. Distress During Separation: Children with separation anxiety may exhibit intense distress, including crying, tantrums, or physical symptoms like stomachaches or headaches, when separated from caregivers.
- 4. Nighttime Anxiety: Separation anxiety can manifest as bedtime resistance, fears of being alone in their room, or difficulty falling asleep.
- 5. Fear of Harm: Children might worry that something bad will happen to their caregivers while they're apart.
- 6. Refusal to Participate: They may refuse to participate in activities or events that take them away from their caregivers, even if they used to enjoy them.

To provide support for children experiencing separation anxiety, consider these strategies:

- 1. Gradual Separation: Practice short separations and gradually increase the time apart to help build the child's confidence in their caregiver's return.
- 2. Consistent Routine: Establishing a predictable routine can create a sense of security for the child, reducing anxiety.
- 3. Positive Reassurance: Offer reassurance that the caregiver will return and provide comforting objects or routines to ease separation.
- 4. Social Interaction: Encourage playdates and interactions with peers to build social confidence.
- 5. Communication: Explain to the child where the caregiver is going and when they'll return to help ease anxiety.
- 6. Empathy and Patience: Acknowledge their feelings and be patient as they navigate this phase.

Recognizing separation anxiety signs and addressing them with empathy is crucial. <u>Oceanic Counseling Group</u> encourages families to seek professional guidance for a holistic approach to managing separation anxiety and promoting children's emotional well-being.

For more information, please contact Oceanic Counseling Group at (843) 894-0000! We accept most insurances and offer telehealth options. In-office locations available in Myrtle Beach, Carolina Forest, Murrells Inlet, Columbia, and Greenville (coming soon)!

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