A functional analysis of adult affection and children's interpersonal distance.
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AB Four preschoolers' preferences for adult proximity were examined as a function of adult affection in a multiple baseline design. After assessing Ss' proximity preference for each of 2 adults (1 male and 1 female), the effects of positive affection displayed by the distantly preferred adult toward the Ss were examined; the closer preferred adult maintained a noninteractive role. Changes from baseline to intervention indicated that when affection was related reciprocally and functionally to S behavior and social preference, Ss preferred closer proximity to the adult displaying that affection.