Capacity for Commitment May Start in Early Childhood

May 26, 2011

MSN Health:

The ability of men and women to have staying power and a strong level of commitment in their romantic relationships can be traced back to their early childhood and adolescence, a new study finds.

Researchers asked 78 people aged 20 or 21 and their heterosexual partners about their level of commitment to their relationship.

The researchers already had data on the participants from when they were aged 2 and 16, including how loving and attentive their mothers were when they were toddlers, and how they dealt with a conflict with a friend as teens.

Researchers found that the toddlers who were treated well by their mothers and who were better at resolving conflicts as teenagers tended to be committed in their adult relationships.

People who stick it out, however, may not be successful in single-handedly holding a relationship together, researchers added.

Read the whole story: MSN Health