**Flipping for Romanian Orphan studies**

**Background research**

**1**. Why look at Romania when studying the negative effects of attachment? In the early 1990s, the west was horrified by images showing thousands of neglected children being housed in Romania’s overcrowded, state-run orphanages. You need to find out the reason for this occurring in Romania and write a brief description below.

**2.** Watch the first clip on the website to give you an idea of exactly how bad the conditions actually were.

**3.** Listen to the radio show on the website: Romanian Orphanage Babies 21 years on from 11th October 2011. It is about the ERA studies and it lasts for 28 minutes. Whilst you are listening, answer the questions that follow. Approximate timings in minutes are given for when the answer to the question appears, but do listen to all of the programme.

5-6 Briefly describe some of the conditions in the Romanian orphanages.

9-10 How quickly do Addy’s parents say she adapted to British life when she was adopted?

10-11.30 Rutter describes studying the Romanian orphans as a unique natural experiment. Why do the studies provide such a good opportunity to find things out about child development?

12.50-13 How is the early period of catch up that most Romanian orphans went through immediately after they were adopted described? The answer is just one word.

13.40-13.50 Of those children who were adopted after six months, what proportion of them have significant problems?

14.20-14.30 Have the problems endured for these children or not?

15-16 What type of problems do these children have?

17.20-17.40 The researchers think that something may be different about the structure of the brain of the children who have not adapted so well since adoption. What was discovered about the head circumference of these children that led to investigations of brain structure?

19.50 – 20 Early research involving brain scans indicates that a part of the brain called the amygdala may be different in the children who have not adapted so well. What does the amygdala do?

23.50-24.30 Most of the children who were adopted after six months have no apparent problems and can be described as having natural resilience. What are the three theories that attempt to explain why some children adopted after six months have no ill effects yet others have many?

1)

2)

3)

27-27.20 Do the ERA studies agree with a previously held view that all emotional development is over by 3 years?

**4.** Watch the second clip on the website and answer the following questions.

What are the long term effects on children of institutionalisation?

Why do institutions cause these problems?

5. Cut out and stick the following evaluation point on page 24 of the packs. It’s a little bit of extra evaluation for you!

One of the methodological issues for Rutter’s ERA project is that the children were not randomly assigned to conditions. The researchers did not interfere with the adoption process, which means that those children adopted early may have been more sociable ones, a confounding variable. To control for such variables another major investigation of fostering versus institutional care did use random allocation. In the Bucharest early intervention project (see below) Romanian orphans were randomly allocated to institutional care or fostering This is methodologically better because it removes the confounding variable of which children are chosen by parents but it raises ethical issues.

The Bucharest early intervention project- Zeenah (2005) assessed 95 children (12-31 months) who had spent most of their lives in institutions and compared to a control group of 50 who had never been in an institution. Using the strange situation their attachment type was measured and carers asked about unusual behaviours-clingyness, attention seeking e.g. They found that 74% of the control group were securely attached and only 20% came out as disinhibited however only 19% of the institutional group were securely attached with 65% having disorganised attachment and 40% disinhibited