Child and Youth Care

[Name of the Student]

[Name of the Institution]

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Genie Wiley's case has been one of the most horrific and painful circumstances to analyze as it among the worst child abuse tales that shook psychologists and sociologists of the time. In the documentary "Secrets of the wild child”; the life of the unfortunate victim – Genie, has been presented to the general public that how she was isolated and brutally tortured by her parents and brother in her childhood (TLC, 2003). During the critical period of her adolescence, she was deprived of the fundamental rights that children of Genie's age usually enjoy. She was found and saved by human rights activists in her home and admitted her to one of the US's most exceptional child rehabilitation center.

Both as a teacher and a parent, it was excruciating to watch the documentary. It was hard to believe that the child's blood relations entirely made a boycott of Genie when she was going through her critical period of childhood. A critical period for a kid is marked from 4 to 7 years of his/her adolescence. This is the age in which the physical and mental abilities of the child quickly adapts, if exposed, to a particular environment or external stimulus; no matter if it’s good or bad for the child (Caldwell, 2017). Failure to give attention to the needs of children in their critical age may result in long-lasting trauma from which the children are impossible to recover and live a normal life.

As shown in the documentary, despite Genie being rescued from further torture by her parents; she still was not able to recover from the damage inflicted on her cognition. The primary reason behind this largely unchanged behavior is that Genie’s mind adapted to the torture done to her in her critical period of childhood. So when she surpassed that period, all the love and affection was meaningless as her mind already learned to be wild all the time. Therefore, food for thought from Genie’s case is that a child should be given loads of affection and love in their critical period to have positive child development in the long-run.

**References**

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#### TLC. (2003). Genie Wiley - TLC Documentary. *YouTube*. Retrieved 9 January 2019, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjZolHCrC8E>