

ATTENTION & ADHD FACT SHEET

Parents are distressed when they receive a note from school saying that their child won't listen to the teacher or causes trouble in class. Sometimes these behaviors are caused by Attention/Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Even though the child with ADHD often wants to be a good student, the impulsive behavior and difficulty paying attention in class frequently interferes and causes problems. Teachers, parents, and friends know that the child is misbehaving or different but they may not be able to tell exactly what is wrong.

Any child may show inattention, distractibility, impulsivity, or hyperactivity at times, but the child with ADHD shows these symptoms more frequently and severely than other child of the same age of developmental level.

ADHD
OCCURS IN 5% OF
SCHOOL AGE
CHILDREN

ADHD RUNS IN
FAMILIES. ABOUT
25% OF
BIOLOGICAL
PARENTS ALSO
HAVE ADHD.

There are three types of ADHD:

1. Some people only have difficulty with attention and organization. This is sometimes called attention deficit disorder or ADO subtype.
2. Other people only have the hyperactive and impulsive symptoms. This is ADHD-hyperactive subtype.
3. The third, and most common group consists of people who have difficulty with both attention and organization and hyperactivity. This is called combined type.

A child presenting with ADHD symptoms should have a comprehensive evaluation. Parents can ask their pediatrician or family doctor to refer them to a child psychiatrist, who can diagnose and treat this medical condition. A child with ADHD may also have other disorders such as conduct disorder, anxiety disorder, depressive disorder, or bipolar disorder. Learning disabilities may also present.

A child with ADHD often shows some of the following:

- trouble paying attention
- inattention to details
- easily distracted
- loses objects frequently
- forgets to turn in homework
- trouble listening
- trouble following multiple commands
- blurts out
- impatience
- fidgets or squirms
- leaves seat and runs excessively
- seems "on the go"
- talks too much
- difficulty being quiet
- interrupts or intrudes on others

The most important thing to remember is that a child who is diagnosed with ADHD and treated appropriately can have a productive and successful life!