

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

PART 2

What it means

Children can display behavioural differences if their needs are not understood. This may lead to social exclusion.

Inattentiveness:

- having a short attention span and being easily distracted;
- making careless mistakes;
- appearing to be unable to listen to or carry out instructions;
- constantly changing activity or task;
- issues with organisation.

Hyperactivity and Impulsiveness:

- being unable to sit still, especially in calm or quiet surroundings;
- constantly fidgeting;
- lack of concentration;
- excessive physical movement;
- constant chattering;

- butting in/interrupting conversation/not able to take turns;
- acting impulsively;
- little or no sense of danger
i.e., consistent risk-taking
behaviour.

Positive features:

- engaging/charismatic
personality;
- adventurous;
- creative;
- lots of interests;
- resourceful;
- willing to explore.



Prevalence

It is estimated that between 1 and 4% of children will have the disorder (1% will meet the diagnostic criteria for a severe form).

Routes to Identification

Diagnosis should be a medical one. A child should be seen by a GP in the first instance and may be referred to a paediatrician, a clinical psychologist or psychiatrist.

For further information

- <http://www.addiss.co.uk/>
- <http://www.adders.org/>