

ATTENTION DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

Facts about ADHD

- ADHD = Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- A neurobehavioral disorder
- Affects attention, impulsivity, and activity levels
- Cause is unknown, but genetics play a role
- Affects boys more frequently than girls

Signs and Symptoms

- Daydreaming
- Forgetfulness
- Difficulty planning and organizing
- Careless mistakes
- Excessive talking
- Difficulty concentrating

Subtypes

- Predominately Inattentive
- Predominately Hyperactive
- Combined (most common)

Diagnosis and Treatment

- Multiple tests/exams are needed
- Diagnosis is recommended at as young as 4 years old
- Behavioral therapy is best for preschoolers
- Medication is used with moderate-to-severe symptoms

ADHD and Language Impairment

- Children with ADHD are at risk for language impairment
- Children should be given a language screening if there are concerns
- A Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) will assess/diagnose language impairment

Children with ADHD can show signs of poor academic performance, difficult peer relationships, and defiant behavior.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/index.html>
<http://www.chadd.org/>

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Communication Challenges			
Receptive Language	Expressive Language	Pragmatics/Social Communication	Emergent Literacy
Following multistep directions	Grammatical errors	Interpreting referential statements	Phonological awareness
Defining vocabulary	Sentence imitation	Turn-taking skills	Phonological memory
Identifying story macrostructure	Nonspecific vocabulary use	Attending to a conversation	Print knowledge
	Creating a narrative	Nonverbal communication	
		Self-regulatory behaviors	

SLP's Role in Treatment

- Operate as part of a team
- Target individualized language goals
- Assist with behavioral therapy
 - Classroom environment changes
 - Family counseling on communication strategies

Tips for Supporting Communication

- Give clear, simple directions
- Use visual aids
- Seat the child in the front of the classroom
- Model social communication
- Check in frequently to promote emotional regulation



UA SCIENCE

Speech, Language,
& Hearing Sciences

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