

Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)

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1. DEFINITION:

AD/HD is a neurobiological disorder and results from abnormal brain chemistry and brain structure.

2. SYMPTOMS

In the educational setting, the following symptoms of AD/HD may be noticed:

- difficulty maintaining focus and attention
- memory problems
- delayed responses
- emotional outbursts
- impulsive behavior

Symptoms of Impaired Executive Functioning include the inability to:

- monitor, manage and control emotions
- control impulsivity
- take initiative
- make plans and follow through with plans (being self-directed)

Symptoms of problems with working memory/ memory problems include:

- Not remembering instructions
- Not remembering what is read from one sentence to another or one paragraph to the next
- Inability to learn from prior mistakes
- Lack of a sense of time
- Poor sense of self or awareness of self

When impaired executive functioning is combined with working memory impairments, the following symptoms are produced:

- Consistent lateness
- Putting things off and then not accomplishing them
- Boredom
- Emotions: frustration, anger, anxiety, depression
- Low self esteem
- Substance abuse

3. CAUSES

AD/HD has been found to be hereditary, but it can also manifest during infancy or early childhood when attachment to parental figure is critical but may have been interrupted.