

Information about:

**The NICHCY Briefing Paper:
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder**

(Fowler, M., FSI4, 3rd Edition, April 2002)

The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY) has prepared this briefing paper as an aid to parents, teachers and other service providers in developing an understanding of the nature and causes of AD/HD, as well as what they can do to facilitate the identification and treatment of the disorder. The first section defines AD/HD, including a discussion of the general behavioral symptoms, specific subtypes and research on the neurobiological causes. The separate diagnostic criteria are reviewed for inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity as put forth by the Diagnostic and Statistical manual of Mental Disorders, IV-TR (DSM-IV-TR). This section also provides a review of how deficits in these three areas may manifest as specific behavioral problems for school aged youth. The author provides a series of recommended steps for gathering clinical information when evaluating a child for the disorder, as well as information regarding if and how parents should go about having their child evaluated for AD/HD.

The next section of the paper describes the various recommended modalities of treatment for AD/HD, including descriptions of 1) parent/child/teacher education about AD/HD, 2) medication, 3) behavioral therapies, and 4) educational interventions. Several behavioral strategy suggestions are provided for parents and significant others as a guide to help them increase desirable behaviors, and minimize problem behaviors.

The third section of this resource addresses the specific school-related difficulties which may hinder the learning process for children with AD/HD. Various educational programs targeted at increasing academic success are described, including descriptions of special education services, and the processes for determining eligibility for these services. Suggestions for teachers as to how they can promote learning for students with AD/HD by adjusting the curriculum, adapting the classroom environment, and encouraging specific behaviors which aid in the learning process.

The final sections provide a general wrap-up of how teachers, parents and significant others may help children to meet the challenges of AD/HD by working to bolster certain protective factors, and lists several references and resources to contact for further information.

Full Document Available Free On-line:

PDF: <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/factshe/fs14.pdf>

Text: <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/factshe/fs14txt.htm>

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