

Attention Deficit Disorder / Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder

Introduction

Students with ADD/ADHD have a learning disability, which can be accompanied by a behaviour disorder. These conditions affect both male and female students although the vast majority of students with this condition are males.

These disorders are characterized by:

- hyperactive behaviour; the need to be doing many things at once
- overall inattentiveness; difficulty concentrating and easily distracted (by noise, movement, light, and colour); may be due to poor short-term memory. Students with ADD/ADHD have trouble remembering more than one instruction at a time and building on what has been learnt in the previous week
- lack of organisational skills
- difficulty following instructions
- difficulty completing work and getting it in on time
- poor reading skills
- possible social difficulties: may seem immature, lack sensitivity, social isolation. Students with ADD/ADHD can sometimes become the “class clown”
- demand attention or be aggressive or argumentative
- low stress tolerance
- possible feelings of low self-esteem and depression
- rapid changes of mood
- impulsive; may act without thinking.

Impact on Study

ADHD students have

- difficulty organising themselves,
- miss visual cues
- be overwhelmed by too much information

What is helpful:

- need for high level of organisation and routine in the classroom
- verbal information to be accompanied by visual representation (e.g. writing on the board /handouts/pictures)
- alert the students to listen before beginning the message
- reduce noise during critical communication
- pace your delivery to give the students time to process information
- look to students for feedback that they have followed your instructions. Vague or inattentive looks are a signal for you to stop and reorganise the message into smaller chunks
- reduce visual distraction and noise
- frequent breaks

Links:

[http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Attention Deficit Disorder ADD or ADHD](http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Attention_Deficit_Disorder_ADD_or_ADHD)