

# ECE 410 Final project Exceptional children



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# *Children with Autism*

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that affects how people normally grow and function. ASD is brought on by variations in the brain. It can affect a person's behavior, interactions with others and the ability to learn and communicate. People with ASD may behave, interact, learn and communicate differently from most other people.

ASD symptoms in children can range from mild to severe, depending on the intensity and involvement of ASD behaviors in a particular situation. Children with ASD are often unaware that they're displaying challenging behaviors until we point it out. If a child with ASD is making eye contact and saying "hi" but doesn't look at another person when they speak, that's not expected behavior — that's communication!



## **Signs and Symptoms**

Young people with autism may struggle to make and keep friends, communicate with peers and adults, or comprehend what is appropriate behavior in the workplace or at school. They might be even more likely to be noticed by medical professionals if they also have disorders like anxiety, depression, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) that is commonly found among adults with ASD.



# Strategy in dealing with Autism

**Structured routines:** Individuals with autism may benefit from structured routines, as they can provide a sense of predictability and stability. This can include having a daily routine for activities such as waking up, eating meals, and going to bed.



# Children with Learning Disabilities

Definition: A learning disability is a disability assigned to a person who processes things differently. There are various learning disabilities, sometimes they present themselves when learning topics such as math and reading. (source: Healthy Children.org ( Learning disabilities))



# Causes and what to look for

Deciphering the cause of a learning disability is not always possible, learning disabilities happen for many reasons. Based upon an article by *Jennifer Zubler, MD, FAAP* called “Learning Disabilities & Differences: What Parents Need To Know” she states “The causes aren't always known, but in many cases children have a parent or relative with the same or similar learning and thinking differences and difficulties.”

What to look for in preschool age children:

- Delays in **language development**. By 2½ years of age, your preschool-age child should be able to talk in phrases or short sentences.
- Trouble learning colors, shapes, letters, and numbers.
- Frustration or anger when trying to learn.

School age children and teens may find it tough to:

- Follow directions.
- Do math calculations or word problems.
- Explain information clearly with speech or in writing.



# Strategies to help children with learning disabilities

As a parent of a child with a learning disability, your best course of action will be to reach out to your child's doctor and teachers. The doctor can grant insight into the child medically. In contrast, the teacher can do so through observations of the child and report to you difficulties they witness, which can help the doctor better understand what may be happening medically for your child to face these difficulties in the classroom. (I know this because I have a learning disability and have experienced this.) The doctor can also refer your child to other doctors who can help such as a neurologist.

Other strategies are:

- **Focus on strengths.** All children have things they do well and things that are difficult for them. Find your child's strengths and help them learn to use them. Your child might be good at math, music, or sports. She could be skilled at art, working with tools, or caring for animals. Be sure to praise your child often when she does well or succeeds at a task.
- **Develop social and emotional skills.** Learning differences combined with the challenges of growing up can make your child sad, angry, or withdrawn. Help your child by providing love and support while acknowledging that learning is hard because their brain learns in a different way. Try to find clubs, teams, and other activities that focus on friendship and fun. These activities should also build confidence. And remember, competition isn't just about winning.
- **Plan for the future.** Many parents whose child learns and thinks differently worry about the future. Help your child plan for adulthood by encouraging them to consider their strengths and interests in education and career choices. Remind them that learning differently isn't tied to how smart they are. In fact, many people with learning difficulties are very bright and grow up to be highly successful at what they do. Special career and work programs can help build confidence by teaching decision-making and job skills. Many colleges have programs to support students who learn and think differently successfully earn a degree.

# Emotional and Behavioral Disorders

Definition: The IDEA vaguely defines emotional and behavioral disorders as a series of interlocking disturbances or conditions that affect a person's behavior and emotions over time, with varying degrees (i.e., mild to severe), while also impacting the child's educational performance.





# Signs and symptoms

Students with emotional and behavioral disorders may have difficulty acquiring social skills and interpreting their own emotions. Oftentimes, these disorders are not identified until the children start school. Most of the time, parents may simply think that the children are spoiled or immature, not recognizing that there may be a disorder at play. Some schools simply view these children as anti-social elements, failing, therefore, to properly diagnose those behaviors. Children with emotional and behavioral disorders usually have difficulties interpreting or responding appropriately to social situations, complying with rules, reading social cues, acting impulsively without identifying the consequences of their behaviors, or recognizing the feelings and concerns of others.



# Strategy

Adaptation of the curriculum may be necessary for supporting children with emotional and behavioral disturbances. A number of screening tools, teaching techniques, and assessment strategies can be used to gain a basic understanding and support students with maladaptive behaviors. It is very important to teach children how to behave in society in order to be successful with groups of friends, classmates, or even co-workers. Social skills need to be built into the curriculum to support children with emotional and behavioral disorders so they can interpret what people are trying to tell them and recognize their feelings. Trying to setting up a points or token system that rewards kids for good behavior. Students can trade them in for rewards when they have earned enough points. These could include a new book, a short break from homework, etc.



# Children with loss of hearing

First let's address that hearing loss can happen to anyone any age and gender. Hearing loss tends to happen when any part of the ear is not working the way it should. It includes the outer ear, inner ear, middle ear and the auditory system. Hearing loss can also happen because of genetics or issues during pregnancies. How can hearing loss affect children? It can affect them in their abilities to develop speech, language and social skills.



# Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of children hearing loss might be different in both babies and children.

## **In babies**

- not reacting to noises normally
- not getting scared with loud noises
- speech delays
- Trouble locating where sound is coming from




## **In children**

- Speech is delayed
- Does not follow instructions
- Might often say “ Huh?” or “what?”
- Might turn up the volume on tablet, Phone or tv.

# Strategies

Some strategies that might be useful in children with hearing loss is...

- Learning other ways to communicate, such as sign language some words like “eat,drink,more,please”.
  - Technology to help with communication, such as hearing aids and cochlear implants.
  - Medicine and surgery to correct some types of hearing loss.
  - Seek out to Family support services.
  - When needing to speak to your child make sure you are face to face having conversation so they can better understand.
  - Never doubt yourself if you as a parent/teacher see the signs ask for help.
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# Children with (ADD) Attention deficit disorder

- ADD which is attention deficit disorder is a chronic condition and it often begins in childhood and can persist into adulthood. This includes attention difficulty, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness. Attention deficit disorder can contribute to many obstacles such as low self esteem, troubled relationships, and difficulty in school work. Some children have both ADHD and ADD which can be difficult to concentrate. Children also have issues staying still ,especially since they naturally have a lot of energy. Which means with attention deficit disorder it is even more difficult to not fidget or stay on task. ADD/ADHD tends to run in families and in most cases. It is thought the genes you inherit from your parents are a significant factor in developing the condition. Children that suffer with attention deficit disorder have problems focusing on tasks, poor timing and management skills, behavioral issues ,etc.

## Definitions


- ▶ **Attention Deficit Disorder:**
  - Is a syndrome usually diagnosed in childhood, characterized by a persistent pattern of impulsiveness, a short attention span and interfering especially with academic, occupational and social performance.
- ▶ **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder:**
  - Is attention deficit disorder in which hyperactive behavior is present.



# Signs and Symptoms

- There are certain signs to children having attention deficit disorder which is being unable to sit still, especially in a calm or quiet surroundings. For example you can be having story time and the child is having trouble sitting in their circle because with attention deficit disorder it can be a struggle. The children can be constantly fidgeting, being unable to concentrate on tasks, excessive physical movement, and acting without thinking. ADD symptoms start before the age of 12 and in some children are as noticeable as two years of age. The symptoms can be mild, moderate, or severe it all depends on the child and there is no cure for this however there is treatment and strategies to help children. Children with attention deficit disorder appear to not listen even when spoken to directly. In early ages children avoid tasks that they do not like and use it as a blocking mechanism. Children with ADD/ADHD may be easily distracted and forget to do daily activities or even not interact during play. Children symptoms also include talking frequently, constant motion , and a lot of body language and movement. Children with ADD are very intelligent even though they tend to have behavioral issues but with proper treatment and strategies when working with these unique children they are just as capable as any other child.

### How ADHD Affects The Brain



<b>Frontal Cortex:</b> Responsible for organization, cognitive flexibility, self-control, & maintaining attention.	<b>Basal Ganglia:</b> Helps regulate communication within the brain. Responsible for motor control, facilitating movement, and inhibiting competing movements.
<b>Reticular Activating System:</b> Major relay system among the many pathways that enter & leave the brain that is responsible for arousal & consciousness. A deficiency in this region can cause inattention, impulsivity, or hyperactivity.	<b>Limbic System:</b> Responsible for regulating emotions. A deficiency in this region might result in restlessness, inattention, or emotional volatility.

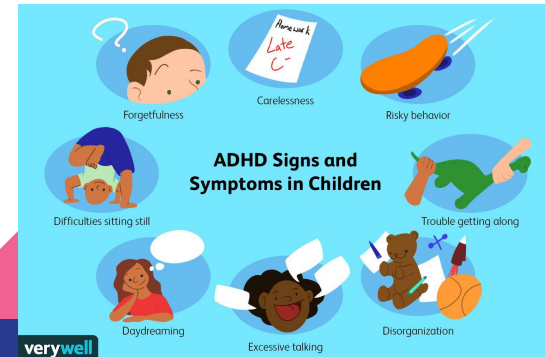
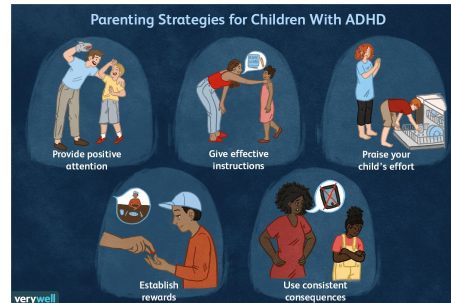


### Symptoms of ADHD

<b>Inattention</b> Disorganization Lack of focus Difficulty giving attention to details Have trouble staying on topic while talking	<b>Hyperactivity</b> Fidget and squirm when seated. Get up frequently to walk or run around. Have trouble playing quietly or doing quiet hobbies	<b>Impulsivity</b> Impatience Having a hard time waiting to talk or react Blurt out answers before someone finishes asking them a question.
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# Strategy in dealing with Attention deficit disorder

- Routines and break down of work can help children with attention deficit disorder stay more focused on task. Dividing task into smaller chunks will help the children not get overwhelmed and give the child time to process what is happening around them. A classroom can be very overwhelming for child with ADD/ADHD because there are toys, children, different surroundings, and teachers talking all at once sometimes. That is why it is important to accommodate the children and do what is best for them which is planning the classroom so the children who need extra focus are seated in the front or far away from distractions. Routines can help children who have attention deficit disorder because they know what is happening and even if they lose focus they can manage to stay on task better. When working with children with ADD it is important to use the strategy of giving clear, effective directions or commands. Instructional modification can also help these children because if the instructions are broken down the children can focus more. One step that works is also giving children praise and reward when rules are followed that way the child looks forward to learning. Children with ADD/ADHD tend to stay more focused if they are interested in the task. It is important to create save and fun environment. Using this strategy will help the children's behavior and help them stay on task even though it may be difficult. As an educator you must ensure that every child gets the best education possible.
- Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/vdVKfo8Odl8>





# Quiz Questions

1. Which of the following is NOT an important consideration in the process of evaluating a student for evidence of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders?

(A) The referring teacher (B) The age of onset of the problem behavior (C) The setting in which the problem behavior is exhibited (D) The treatment to be used

The correct response is: D) It is a part of the educational plan that is developed based on the completion of the evaluation process.

2. What is a key element in developing a successful strategy for supporting individuals with Autism?

A) Providing early intervention B) Using structured routines C) Offering sensory support D) Tailoring strategies to the individual's unique needs and challenges.

The correct response is: D) Tailoring strategies to the individual's unique needs and challenges.

3. Which of the following are symptoms of attention deficit disorder (ADD/ADHD) ?

(A) Forgetfulness (B) Hyperactivity (C) lack of attention or focus (D) All of the above

The correct response is: D) All of the above. These are all symptoms to attention deficit disorder.

4. What is a component to look at a preschool level if a child has a learning disability?

(A) Bulging eyes (B) Trouble learning colors, shapes, letters, and numbers (C) body ticks (D) All of the above

5. If a child is not born with hearing loss they will always be able to hear.

True or False

The correct answer is **False** because although children might be born hearing they can always lose their hearing in later situations for example

If they get an ear infection as a teen they can lose their hearing.



# Resources

**Hearing loss** - "What Is Hearing Loss in Children?" *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 18 July 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/facts.html>.

Zubler, J. (n.d.). *Learning disabilities & differences: What parents need to know*. HealthyChildren.org. Retrieved December 15, 2022, from <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/learning-disabilities/Pages/Learning-Disabilities-What-Parents-Need-To-Know.aspx>

