

What is ADD/ADHD?

Education and AD/HD:

Most children with AD/HD can be taught in a regular classroom. Your child's school and teachers are also an important part of treatment. They need to be made aware of the diagnosis, medications and of any educational interventions that are required. When medications are first prescribed, they provide evaluation to determine your child's response to the medication.

Discuss the appropriate educational plan or program for your child, remember we as parents are their primary educators and we know our children best. Teaching a child with AD/HD requires knowledge, understanding and patience. As a parent, your role as part of your child's school-based team is vital for him/her to be successful in school. A positive and patient atmosphere with praise, encouragement and rewards will improve your child's sense of self-worth which will then positively impact his/her school work.

Early intervention is key to your child's success – if you suspect a learning disability discuss it with your child's teacher and request a psycho-educational evaluation to understand where his/her difficulties are – be proactive and gain knowledge regarding special education support and services. This information is available at your child's school or on the internet at www.bced.gov.ca/specialed/

During the primary years many of the behaviors previously discussed are evident and continue through the intermediate grade levels. However, additional ones arise as students are expected to be much more independent and self-directed, and receive less supervision. For AD/HD students, demands for concentration, higher levels of thinking and problem solving increase making it harder for them to meet those demands. Often during puberty behaviors worsen as hormonal levels change and demands increase. As a parent, monitoring and “being on top” of behaviors is important as those students who have gotten by in earlier grades can “bomb” academically during puberty. Many students also show problems in time management, prioritizing work, note taking, study skills and completing multi-step tasks. Clearly a student with AD/HD can have difficulty in any number of academic areas and with critical academic skills. Therefore, it is extremely important that the school and parents work together to design an appropriate educational program for the student.