

Common Problems of Children with Attention Deficits

Trait

Manifestations

Poor selective attention

Tends to focus on unimportant parts of a job. Can't seem to 'tune out' distractions. Hates detail.

Cognitive fatigue

Yawns frequently. Tires quickly when required to sit still and do structured tasks such as school work.

Insatiable

Wants everything 'right now'. Has difficulty waiting for a reward or special event. Tends to want things all the time. Is always thinking ahead about the end result. Does not plan step by step, but jumps ahead to the end result.

Impulsive

Acts too quickly, without planning.

Inconsistent performance

'Some days they can; some days they can't'. Your child may do very well on a test one day, then fail one the next day. Some days the child seems to pay attention to you; other days, forget it!

Inappropriate activity

Is (sometimes) overactive. Sometimes has difficulty in paying attention while doing something.

Poor self-monitoring

'She doesn't seem to think about what she's doing'. Does not check over assignments for errors. Sometimes does not try to control behaviour.

Poor memory

Has difficulty remembering specific facts and putting them together. Is likely to be behind in school.

Motor dysfunctions

Has problems with small hand and eye movements (called fine motor skills). Has difficulty with tasks such as writing that require putting several movements together.