

## ADHD in Children and Adolescents

### DSM 5 Criteria

A. Either (I) or (II):

(I) Six or more symptoms of **inattention** for children up to age 16, or five or more for adolescents 17 and older and adults; symptoms of inattention have been present for at least 6 months, and they are inappropriate for developmental level.

**Inattention:**

1. Often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities (e.g., overlooks or misses details, work is inaccurate)
2. Often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities (e.g., has difficulty remaining focused during lectures, conversations, or lengthy reading)
3. Often does not seem to listen when addressed directly (e.g., mind seems elsewhere, even in the absence of any obvious distraction)
4. Often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores, or duties in the workplace (not due to oppositional behavior or failure to understand instructions.) (e.g., starts tasks but quickly loses focus and is easily sidetracked)
5. Often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities (e.g., difficulty managing sequential tasks; difficulty keeping materials and belongings in order; messy, disorganized work; has poor time management; fails to meet deadlines)
6. Often avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort (e.g., schoolwork or homework; for older adolescents and adults, preparing reports, completing forms, reviewing lengthy papers)
7. Often loses things necessary for tasks or activities (e.g., school materials, pencils, books, or tools, wallets, keys, paperwork, eyeglasses and mobile telephones)
8. Is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli (e.g., for older adolescents and adults may include unrelated thoughts)
9. Is often forgetful in daily activities (e.g., doing chores, running errands; for older adolescents and adults, returning calls, paying bills, keeping appointments)

(II) Six or more symptoms of **hyperactivity-impulsivity** for children up to age 16, or five or more for adolescents 17 and older and adults; symptoms of hyperactivity-impulsivity have been present for at least 6 months to an extent that is disruptive and inappropriate for the person's developmental level.

**Hyperactivity:** (excessive movement and restlessness)

1. Often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat
2. Often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected (e.g., leaves his or her place in the classroom, in the office or other workplace, or in other situations that require remaining in place)
3. Often runs about or climbs excessively in situations in which it is inappropriate (e.g., in adolescents or adults, may be limited to subjective feelings of restlessness)
4. Often has difficulty playing or engaging in leisure activities quietly
5. Is often "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor" (e.g., is unable to be or uncomfortable being still for extended time, as in restaurants, meetings; may be experienced by others as being restless or difficult to keep up with)
6. Often talks excessively

**Impulsivity:** (acting without thinking)

1. Often blurts out answers before questions have been completed (e.g., completes people's sentences; cannot wait for turn in conversation)
2. Often has difficulty awaiting turn (e.g., while waiting in line)
3. Often interrupts or intrudes on others (e.g., butts into conversations or games, or activities; may start using other people's things without asking or receiving permission; for adolescents and adults, may intrude into or take over what others are doing)

**In addition, the following conditions must be met:**

- B. Several hyperactive impulsive or inattentive symptoms were present before age 12 years.
- C. Several symptoms are present in two or more settings, (e.g., at home, school or work; with friends or relatives; in other activities).
- D. There is clear evidence that the symptoms interfere with, or reduce the quality of social, school, or work functioning.
- E. The symptoms do not occur exclusively during the course of schizophrenia or other psychotic disorder and are not better accounted for by another mental disorder (e.g. mood disorder, anxiety disorder, dissociative disorder, or a personality disorder).