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ECAY4004

Assessment 2

**Explore barriers to empowerment with a
group of your choice.**

By Christine Evans.





Introduction

Hello, my name is Christine.

In this presentation we will be looking at the barriers to empowerment with a group of choice.

Firstly, we will explore Neurodiversity and the various forms of this, then we will look further into Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Following this, we will discover the meaning meaning the term empowerment and how this can be achieved.

We shall then explore the barriers that may be experienced for those with ADHD.

In this presentation we will be looking at this mainly through the lens of a child.



What is Neurodiversity?

Child Mind Institute (2024) describe Neurodiversity as 'a popular term that's used to describe differences in the way people's brains work'



Variations of Neurodiversity

NHS Oxford Health (2023) state neurodiversity can include:

- Autism
 - ADHD
 - ADD
 - Dyslexia
 - Dyscalculia
 - Dyspraxia
- 



What is ADHD?

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Bee, H and Boyd, D. (2007, P.432) explain how researcher Russel Barkley (1997) suggests ' the underlying problem is a deficit in the child's ability to inhibit behaviour'.

NHS Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (2024) look at the theories in regards to the causes of ADHD.

- Genetic and Environmental factor
- Neurotransmitters
- Gender
- Diet

➤ **NHS Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (2024) express that:**

‘ADHD is best viewed as a chronic neurodevelopment disorder and a child will need the right treatment and support to ensure they are able to make the most of their education and life in the long term.’



What is Empowerment?

Perkins, D. (2010) defines Empowerment:

'as an intentional ongoing process centered in the local community, involving mutual respect, critical reflection, caring, and group participation, through which people lacking an equal share of valued resources gain greater access to and control over their lives.'

- Hussey, M. explain to empower a person, it is making them stronger and helping them achieve more confidence to take control of their lives and claim their rights.
- Hussey, M. states that empowering is a powerful term to use.



Achieving Empowerment

- Kidsempowered 4 Life (2024) discuss the keypoints in empowering those with ADHD, explaining how offering more freedom to make their own choices, even if it is just the small decisions and allowing them to offer their opinions, giving them voice.
- Kidsempowered 4 life explains how a child will feel more empowered when their opinion is requested and valued.
- Save The Children UK express how 'every child has the right to be heard and taken seriously under article 12 of the UNCRC'
- Child Friendly Leeds (April 2021) explain how having voice means children and young people can influence decisions and actions that may affect their lives and meaning their voices are listened to and valued.



Barriers

- Bright Futures (2024) explain that to empower a child with ADHD this includes building confidence and self-esteem, promoting their strengths and their interests and increasing and encouraging their skills to self-advocate.
- Lack of Education - French, B *et al* (2019) state the lack of education and training, along with lack of understanding, awareness and confidence can be a barrier for professionals working with those with ADHD.
- Stigma – Bussing, R. (2013) explains how there may be a stigma attached when dealing with ADHD, such as it being a result of incompetent parenting or intentional child misbehaviour. Shire Pharmaceuticals Ltd (2018) explore how people are unsympathetic to a disability that can't be seen, whereas when it is a physical disability people sympathise more, they are unable to see that a child with ADHD isn't receiving the perfect signal within their brains, which can lead to lack of support to empowerment from others.
- Child's Listening Skills – Bertin, M. (2014) look at how listening skills of a child with ADHD can be impaired, due to other distractions, also if a person is speaking rapidly, where they could be missing details or failing to register important and relevant parts of information.
- Communication Skills – NHS Berkshire Healthcare express how those with ADHD perhaps have a problem when communicating, such as interrupting when others are speaking, as they have a difficulty in waiting their turn and also excessive talking, when perhaps there is no need or being impulsive with what they say, which possibly will be regretted later and therefore reducing their confidence to speak out.

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