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Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Introduction

This poster looks at children with ADHD. It explains what ADHD is and how it can have an effect on a child's development. It will explain why diagnosis is important for early intervention. Also looking at how the social and medical models of disability affect how children with ADHD are perceived. The aim of this poster is to promote understanding of ADHD and introduce some of the support strategies that can be used

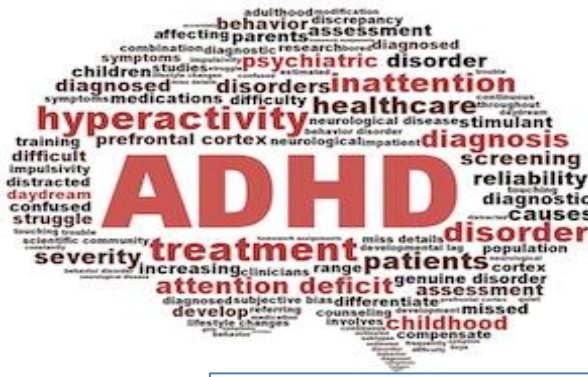
What is ADHD

ADHD is a behavioural disorder. It affects a child's ability to concentrate and pay attention and they also find it hard to keep still (Young Minds, 2018: NHS, 2016) It has a higher diagnosis rate in boys than in girls (Skogli et al, 2013:Centre for ADHD and Autism Support, 2016).

Symptoms can start to introduce themselves in children as young as eighteen month however symptoms typically become noticeable between the ages of three to seven (Young Minds, 2018: Kids Matter, 2018)

Why diagnosis is important

Early intervention can prevent the symptoms of ADHD developing (Kids Matter, 2016). By putting strategies in place as soon as possible it can have a beneficial affect on a child's education (Young Minds (2018)).



(Source: Centre for Educational Neuroscience, 2018)

Social Stories

ADHD impairs a child's ability to process information and situations in a way that is considered normal (Edelson, 2013). Social stories can be used to help children understand how to behave and react in an appropriate way by simplifying the situation. Developed by Carol Gray in 1991 but are still being used successfully in schools today (The National Autistic Society, no date). They work by including information for a specific situation and follow a specific structure. They start by describing the situation followed by a directive sentence which is used to encourage the child's cognitive process towards the behaviour that is expected. Then a perspective sentence is used to explain how others view the situation and finally a control sentence which specifies the strategies that they can use (Carol Gray Social Stories, 2018)

Social and Medical Model of Disability

The Medical Model of Disability looks at the child with ADHD as something that needs to be fixed in order to fit in with what society considers the normal (Peer and Reid, 2016;) The Social Model of Disability looks at it from a different perspective . It looks at how society impairs a child with ADHD. It focuses on barriers that need to change and be overcome in order for people to become independent (Scope, 2018; Disability Nottinghamshire, 2018).

Routine

Children with ADHD have difficulty focusing, therefore by introducing a daily routine can help alleviate some of the symptoms of ADHD by removing potential distractions and confusions (Low, 2018; Association of Teachers and Lectures, 2018). A routine is also a useful way of introducing effective skills for the future. When a child is familiar with a routine, following it becomes second nature and removes a lot of confusion and stress from their day to day lives (Vann, 2013; Orenstein, 2010). An effective way of introducing a routine is to combine it with a reward system, as children with ADHD regularly respond well to rewards for a success completion of a task.

Conclusion

To conclude with the use of support strategies and educators gaining further knowledge on how to help children with ADHD there is nothing stopping them from becoming successful educated citizens .

Useful References

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