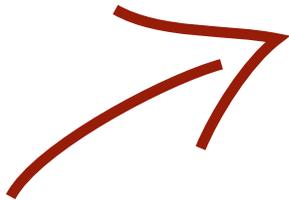


# ADHD Criteria

The individual must present at least six symptoms of inattention and/or six symptoms of hyperactivity, repeatedly, in a disruptive manner, and inconsistently with the development level for the given age. Below are the criteria to be observed.



## ● INATTENTION

- Fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes.
- Has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks.
- Does not seem to listen when spoken to directly.
- Does not follow through on instructions or fails to finish chores (not due to oppositional behavior).
- Has difficulty in planning or organizing work or activities.
- Avoids or is reluctant to engage in tasks specially when it requires sustained mental effort.
- Loses things needed for tasks or activities.
- Is easily distracted by extraneous stimuli.
- Is forgetful in daily activities.

## ● HYPERACTIVITY - IMPULSIVITY

### Motor hyperactivity

- Fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat.
- Gets up from seat when remaining seated is expected.
- Runs or climbs everywhere (with aging: feeling restless).
- Has difficulty remaining quiet in school, at work or in leisure activities.
- Is often "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor".
- Talks excessively.

### Impulsivity

- Blurts out answers before questions have been completed.
- Has difficulty awaiting turn.
- Interrupts or intrudes on others.

To diagnose ADHD in a child or an adult, all of the following characteristics must be present:

- Some symptoms were present before age 7.
- Some impairment from the symptoms is present in two or more settings (e.g., home, school, work).
- There is clear evidence of clinically significant impairment in different aspects of life (social, academic and occupational).
- The symptoms last more than six months and are not explainable by any other mental illness (for example: Anxiety Disorder).

ADHD Predominantly Inattentive = responds only to criteria 1.

ADHD Predominantly Hyperactive = responds only to criteria 2.

ADHD Combined = meets the criteria 1 and 2 (the most common form).

Adapted from Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV), American Psychiatric Association, Washington DC, 1994.