Supporting children with ADHD

BASSETLAW PRIMARY BEHAVIOUR PARTNERSHIP

What is ADHD

Attention deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is:

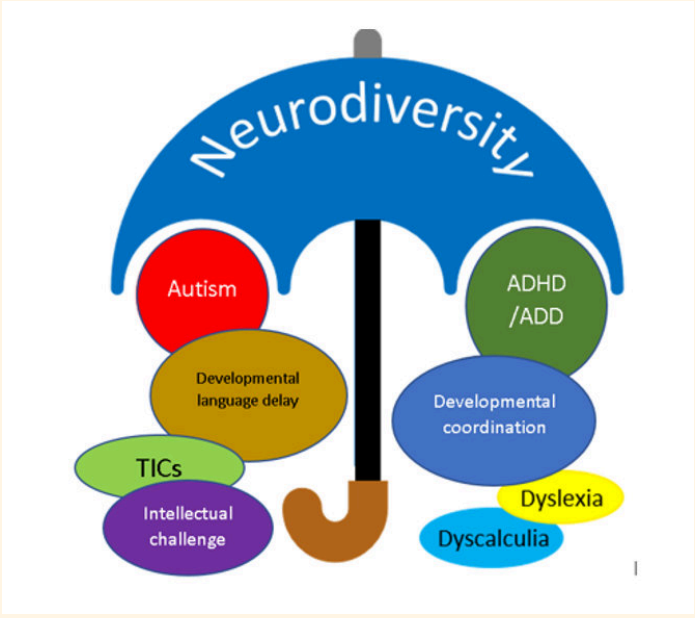
Inattention, impulsivity or hyperactivity more severe than is seen in most children at the same developmental level



These symptoms are persistent and present before the age of 7

The difficulties show up at home and at school

ADHD is diagnosed by a medical professional



ADHD sits under the umbrella of neurodiversity and there are links between ADHD and the other aspects that sit under the umbrella.

There are 3 types of ADHD:

1. Predominantly Inattentive:

Easily distracted

Trouble staying focused

2. Predominantly Hyperactive-Impulsive:

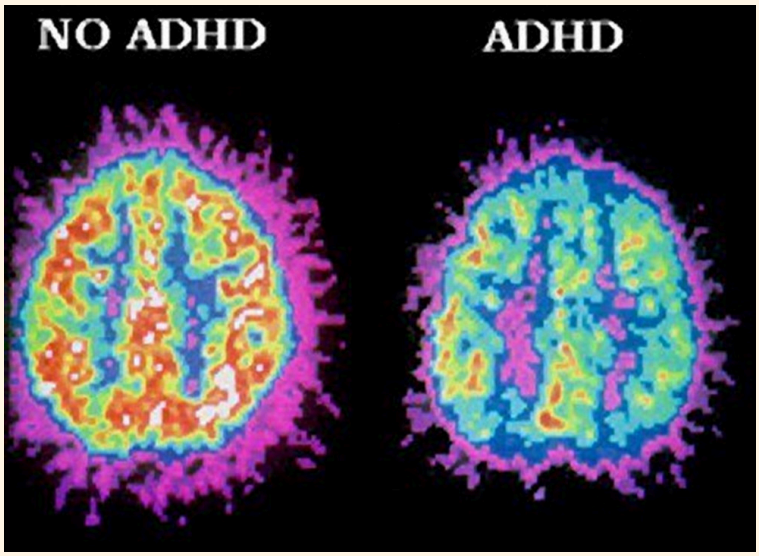
Fidgety, talks excessively

Acts without thinking

3. Combined Presentation:

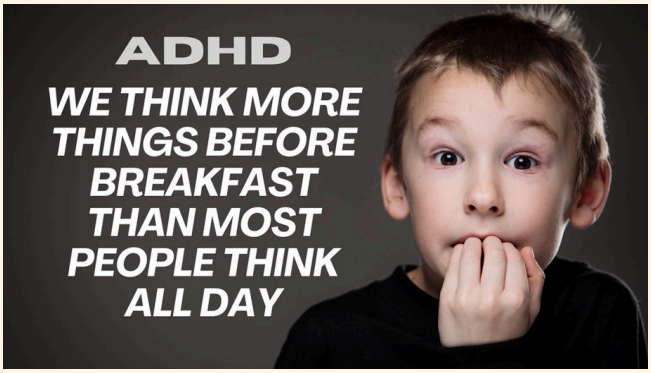
Symptoms of both inattention and hyperactivity/impulsivity

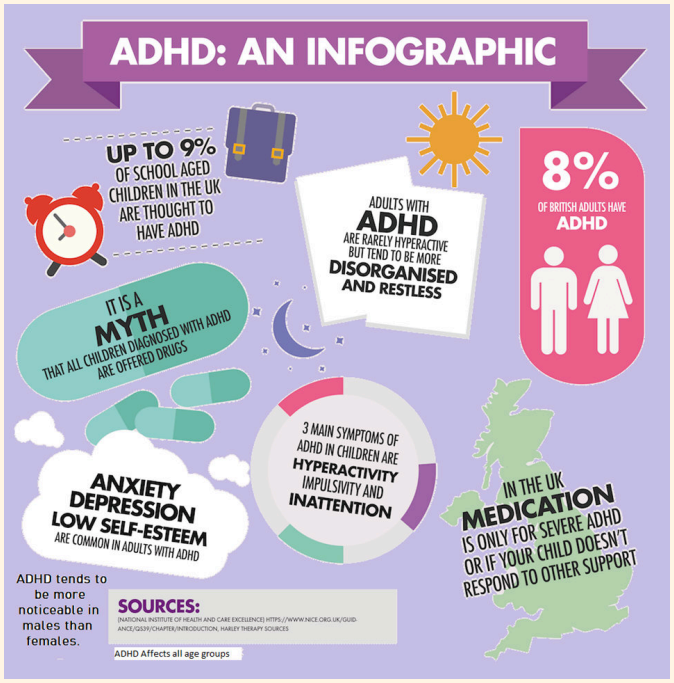
ADHD in pictures



Research has shown for people with ADHD, some structures of the brain can be smaller than in people with no ADHD and some parts can be slower to mature. There are reductions in the size of several specific regions, including the frontal lobes, which is used for thinking skills





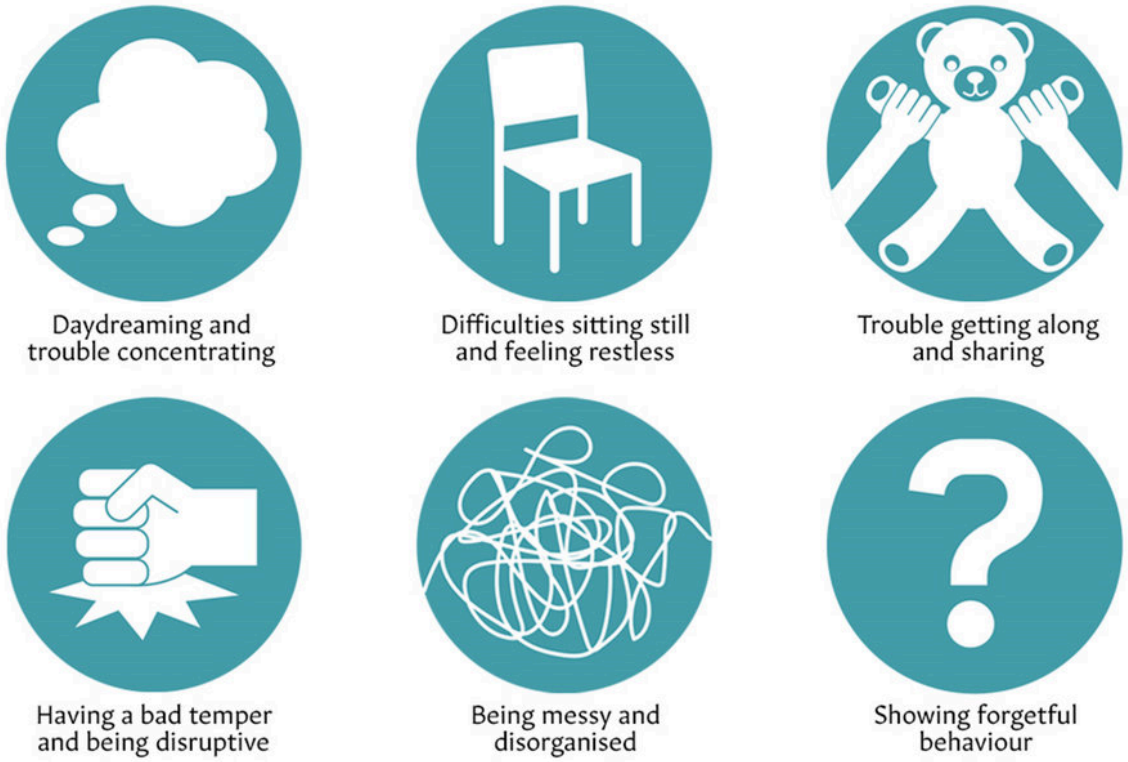


Children with ADHD have more than 100 times greater risk of being permanently excluded from school than other children

39% of children with ADHD have had fixed term exclusions from school

11% of excluded children with ADHD have been excluded permanently.

Behaviours that we see



forgetfulness

daydreaming fidgeting

speaking before thinking

doing before thinking

emotional outbursts

literacy difficulties

misunderstanding spoken language



Which can lead to:

low confidence

irritability fatigue

playing to the crowd

frustration

lack of friendships

dislike of written work

headaches

It’s not misbehaviour



They are the children who keep being told to sit down, stop fidgeting, who are told off for losing their pencils or books, who are criticised for not listening or forgetting what to do.

However...

They are not showing wilful defiance or laziness

Their symptoms are not a choice

They need support and understanding to reduce “disruptive” behaviours

Superpowers 🦸

There is a positive side to having ADHD, and it’s up to us to tap into their superpowers:

