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What if it's not ADD?



Joanie Gerken

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- The symptoms of inattention, distractibility, and disorganization do not automatically mean that an individual has Attention Deficit Disorder...

Dr. Betty Levinson

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Disorders that often mimic ADD

Verbal Learning Disabilities
(Dyslexia)

- Primary deficit in processing of verbal information
- Inability to attend caused by individual's failure to efficiently comprehend spoken or written language

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How to help dyslexia

- Remediation is aimed at improving word decoding skills, expanding sight vocabulary, increasing language skills and improving writing ability

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Nonverbal Learning Disabilities

- Primary deficit in processing visual, spatial, social, and emotional information.
- Disorganization and failure to stay on task related to individual's ability to stay oriented in physical or interpersonal space.

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How to help Nonverbal Learning Learner

- Remediation is aimed at developing internal rules of behavior and acquiring compensatory strategies to overcome primary deficits of processing body language and spatial and social information.

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Depression

- Primary deficit is depressed mood accompanied by diminished efficiency of cognitive processes.
- Inattention and lack of achievement result from impaired concentration and loss of motivation.

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What can be done for depression?

- Remediation is aimed at alleviating the primary symptoms of depression.

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Anxiety Disorders

- Primary deficit is anxiety and individual's maladaptive attempts at coping.
- Distractibility and failure to complete tasks stem from individual's preoccupation with outside concerns or futile attempts to contain anxiety.

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How to help Anxiety Disorders

- Remediation is aimed at reducing stressors and alleviating the primary symptom of anxiety.

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Oppositional Defiant Behavior

- Primary deficit is motivational
- Failure to stay on task or complete assignments result from the individual's conscious and /or unconscious need to resist other's efforts to limit or control his or her behavior.

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Ways to help Oppositional Behavior

- Remediation is aimed at identifying and restructuring the individual's motivations and often includes involving significant others.

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Co-morbidity

- ADD
- ADHD
- Dyslexia
- Nonverbal learning disabilities
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Oppositional Behavior

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Tips for Organizing ADHD Students

1. Take the first few minutes of each day to organize the children, cleaning out loose papers and neatly stacking books.
2. List day's work and schedule on board.
3. Use an organized 3 ring binder system.

Copeland, E.D. & Love, V.L. (1992) Attention without Tension... (3 C's of Childhood, Inc.: Atlanta)

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(Continued)

- Re-orient the class after lunch using positive reminders about student behaviors for learning
- 5. Take the last few minutes of the day to organize the class for packing up.
- 6. Suggest organization tips for families to practice at home.

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