

Criteria for the Diagnosis of Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD)

Before a diagnosis of ADD/ADHD can be made, the following criteria (from DSM IV) must be fulfilled:

A. Either (1) or (2):

1. Six (or more) of the following symptoms of **inattention** have persisted for at least 6 months to a degree that is maladaptive and inconsistent with developmental level:
 - Often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities
 - Often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities
 - Often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
 - Often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores, or duties in the workplace (not due to oppositional behavior or failure to understand instructions)
 - Often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities
 - Often avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as schoolwork or homework)
 - Often loses things necessary for tasks or activities (e.g., toys, school assignments, pencils, books, or tools)
 - Is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
 - Is often forgetful in daily activities.

2. Six (or more) of the following symptoms of **hyperactivity-impulsivity** have persisted for at least 6 months to a degree that is maladaptive and inconsistent with developmental level:
 - Hyperactivity
 - Often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat
 - Often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected
 - Often runs about or climbs excessively in situations in which it is inappropriate (in adolescents or adults, may be limited to subjective feelings of restlessness)
 - Often has difficulty playing or engaging in leisure activities quietly
 - Is often "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor" often talks excessively
 - Impulsivity
 - Often blurts out answers before questions have been completed
 - Often has difficulty awaiting turn
 - Often interrupts or intrudes on others (e.g. butts into conversations or games)

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- B. Some hyperactive-impulsive or inattentive symptoms that caused impairment were present before age 7 years.
- C. Some impairment from the symptoms is present in two or more settings (e.g. at school [or work] and at home).
- D. Clear evidence of clinically significant impairment in social, academic, or occupational functioning.
- E. The symptoms do not occur exclusively during the course of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Schizophrenia, or other Psychotic Disorder and are not better accounted for by another mental disorder (e.g. Mood Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Dissociative Disorder, or a Personality Disorder).

Specify Types:

- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Combined Type:** if both Criteria A1 and A2 are met for the past 6 months.
- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Predominantly Inattentive Type:** if Criterion A1 is met but Criterion A2 is not met for the past 6 months.
- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Predominantly Hyperactive-Impulsive Type:** if Criterion A2 is met but Criterion A1 is not met for the past 6 months.