# ATTENTION DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

## Facts about ADHD
- ADHD = Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- A neurobehavioral disorder
- Affects attention, impulsivity, and activity levels
- Cause is unknown, but genetics play a role
- Affects boys more frequently than girls

## Subtypes
- Predominately Inattentive
- Predominately Hyperactive
- Combined (most common)

## Signs and Symptoms
- Daydreaming
- Forgetfulness
- Difficulty planning and organizing
- Careless mistakes
- Excessive talking
- Difficulty concentrating

## Diagnosis and Treatment
- Multiple tests/exams are needed
- Diagnosis is recommended at as young as 4 years old
- Behavioral therapy is best for preschoolers
- Medication is used with moderate-to-severe symptoms

## ADHD and Language Impairment
- Children with ADHD are at risk for language impairment
- Children should be given a language screening if there are concerns
- A Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) will assess/diagnose language impairment

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Children with ADHD can show signs of poor academic performance, difficult peer relationships, and defiant behavior.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
# Communication Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receptive Language</th>
<th>Expressive Language</th>
<th>Pragmatics/Social Communication</th>
<th>Emergent Literacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Following multistep directions</td>
<td>Grammatical errors</td>
<td>Interpreting referential statements</td>
<td>Phonological awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining vocabulary</td>
<td>Sentence imitation</td>
<td>Turn-taking skills</td>
<td>Phonological memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying story macrostructure</td>
<td>Nonspecific vocabulary use</td>
<td>Attending to a conversation</td>
<td>Print knowledge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Creating a narrative</td>
<td>Nonverbal communication</td>
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<td>Self-regulatory behaviors</td>
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</tbody>
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## SLP’s Role in Treatment
- Operate as part of a team
- Target individualized language goals
- Assist with behavioral therapy
  - Classroom environment changes
  - Family counseling on communication strategies

## Tips for Supporting Communication
- Give clear, simple directions
- Use visual aids
- Seat the child in the front of the classroom
- Model social communication
- Check in frequently to promote emotional regulation

## For More Information: