



OC FAMILY



HOME | E-NEWSLETTER | ARCHIVES | VIDEOS | BLOGS | MOMS CLUBS | FEEDBACK

EVERYTHING FOR YOUR FAMILY

- Babies/Maternity
- Camps
- Education
- Enrichment/Sports
- Health & Wellness
- Party Planning
- Retail

2014 OC Family Summer Camp & Activities Fair

WHAT TO DO



Here's what is happening this weekend!

WHAT TO KNOW



CHOC Healthy Kids: Tips for slowing down

WHAT TO KNOW



Money Management for kids: Lessons about stocks and bonds

Advertise With Us

Click here to request more information.

OC Family reaches:

- Active & educated parents
- Growing families

2008 ADHD Series

Diagnosing ADHD

For most parents whose child receives the ADHD diagnosis, the news that their child has the condition does not come as a shock.

BY ELISABETH HANDLEY
Published: February, 2008

For most parents whose child receives the ADHD diagnosis, the news that their child has the condition does not come as a shock. Most suspected something was wrong, and tried to either deny it or deal with it. Many resisted testing because they didn't want the ADHD label hung like a noose around the neck of their beloved.

"ADHD is not life-and-death," says Cathy Robinson, whose 10-year-old son, Thomas, has the condition. "But it can really affect (their ability to) keep up and do well. Medicine lets the true child come through, to be the person he is capable of being."

Delaying a diagnosis can negatively affect the child in many ways - ways that are much worse than any perceived stigma. The statistics spell it out:

>> Sixty-five percent of children with ADHD struggle with defiance, verbal hostility, tantrums and other problems with authority figures.

>> Twenty-five percent have serious learning problems in areas such as oral expression, listening skills, reading comprehension and math.

>> Since the rate of emotional development of children with ADHD is 30% slower than non-ADHD kids, a 16-year-old beginning driver is using the decision-making skills of an 11-year-old.

>> By the teen years, undiagnosed ADHD sufferers tend to self-medicate; clearly these medications are not beneficial.

>> Parents of a child with ADHD are 3 times more likely to separate or divorce as parents of children without it.

Another compelling reason to have your child tested, if you or a teacher suspect ADHD, are the "co-morbid disorders," or disorders that tend to go hand-in-hand with ADHD. These are most often anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and other defiance and conduct disorders - none of which will improve if ignored.

While early diagnosis is best for the child, don't be too ready to diagnose those under age 6. The behaviors that are associated with preschoolers, such as the "Terrible 2s," greatly resemble ADHD and are most often outgrown. Children reach milestones at different ages, which makes it difficult to measure developmental delays until kids reach grade school.

To accurately diagnose ADHD, the professional must be able to identify and distinguish behaviors that can be subtle and complicated. The road to an appropriate diagnosis can be rough and rocky, but the ultimate destination is a happy, well-balanced, successful child.

- Elisabeth Handley is a regular contributor to OC Family Magazine.

Print This Article

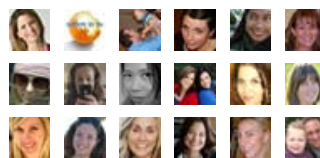
RSS Subscribe

ShareThis

SEARCH THE SITE

GO

momblogs



Center for Children & Family Law. Advocating for Children & Families. www.centerforchildren.com

JFAIRMONT PRIVATE SCHOOLS. YOU'RE INVITED! NEW FAMILY RECEPTION & OPEN HOUSE. Inspiring minds and empowering dreams. RSVP Here or call 714.451.2090. Anaheim • Anaheim Hills • North Tustin • Preschool 2 yrs. - 8th

the "Terrible 2s," greatly resemble ADHD

• [And more...](#)

Copyright 2013 Churm Media. All Rights Reserved. (714) 796-7000

ADVERTISING: [Advertise](#) | [Media Kit](#)

BRANDS: [OC METRO](#) | [OC Menus](#) | [Inland Empire Family](#) | [Southland Golf](#) | [Churm Media](#) | [Ripe Orange](#)

CONTACT & SERVICES: [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Where to Find OC Family](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)