

INATTENTIVE ADHD IS MUCH HARDER TO DIAGNOSE



Actor portrayal.

*You've asked your child 7 times to brush her teeth, but she's still building with her block set.
The homework in her backpack never makes it to the teacher's desk.
The dishwasher is only half emptied, because something else drew her attention away.*

Sound familiar?

Inattentive attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is sometimes referred to as an “invisible” disorder because it is often misdiagnosed, or even missed entirely.

Without a proper diagnosis or treatment, your child's inattention can cause poor school performance or conflict at home. Although inattentive ADHD can remain undiagnosed for years, it's never too late to see the benefits from treatment.

Recognizing the 9 Symptoms of Inattentive ADHD

The American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic manual lists the following 9 symptoms of inattentive ADHD. For a diagnosis, a persistent pattern of 6 or more symptoms must be present in children up to age 17. For older teens and adults, at least 5 symptoms are required.

<p>Careless Mistakes: Your child doesn't pay close attention to details.</p>	<p>Short Attention Spans: Your child has difficulty paying attention, resulting in incomplete classwork and unfinished tasks at home.</p>	<p>Poor Listening Skills: Your child doesn't seem to listen when spoken to—and may seem “elsewhere” in a conversation.</p>
<p>No Follow-Through: Your child has difficulty following instructions and seeing projects through to completion.</p>	<p>Disorganized: Your child has difficulty organizing activities, managing time, and keeping things tidy.</p>	<p>Inability to Focus: Your child avoids things that require sustained focus (reading assignments or lengthy papers).</p>
<p>Loses Things: Your child may misplace classwork or (if older) keys or cell phone.</p>	<p>Distracted: Your child likes to daydream, is easily sidetracked, and often can't stay on task.</p>	<p>Forgetful: Your child is forgetful in daily activities (eg, handing in assignments).</p>