



Dear Physician,

Many children with ADHD get diagnosed during childhood because you recognize hyperactive and impulsive children.

But there are boys and girls with ADHD-Predominantly Inattentive who aren't diagnosed during childhood---the children, staring out the window, looking at the ceiling, or glancing at something in the room during a physical exam, the children who are startled when you call their name because they weren't paying attention. Inattentive children are usually quiet and not disruptive so you may miss the signs of their Inattentive ADHD. They often are bright but their parents report they are not performing up to their potential.

According to Dr. Edward Hallowell, if a child isn't doing well in school and there is no other explanation, physicians should consider Inattentive ADHD. Asking the child questions about school, friends and how long homework takes will elicit the information needed to make a tentative diagnosis. It is believed that thirty percent of all children with ADHD have the Predominantly Inattentive presentation, and frequently, they never learn that their undiagnosed disorder is what makes their lives so challenging.

Delayed diagnosis can compound their problems. The longer they are remain undiagnosed, the more likely they are to develop depression and/or anxiety.

Viewing this five minute video is worth more than 10,000 words explaining Inattentive ADHD. Two children are interviewed and asked the same questions. Both are six years old, in the first grade, and have the same family structure, but their answers are very different. The reason? One of them has inattentive ADHD. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IO6zqIm88s>

On the next page is the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition* description of ADHD-PI: Please store this information where you can readily refer to it.

Sincerely yours,



ADHD-Predominantly Inattentive

Six or more symptoms of inattention for children up to age 16 years, or five or more for adolescents age 17 years and older and adults; symptoms of inattention have been present for at least 6 months, and they are inappropriate for developmental level:

- **Often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, at work, or with other activities.**
- **Often has trouble holding attention on 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 (e.g., loses focus, side-tracked).**
- **Often has trouble organizing tasks and activities.**
- **Often avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to do tasks that require mental effort over a long period of time (such as schoolwork or homework)**
- **Often loses things necessary for tasks and activities (e.g. school materials, pencils, books, tools, wallets, keys, paperwork, eyeglasses, mobile telephones).**
- **Is often easily distracted**



- **Is often forgetful in daily activities.**