



INATTENTIVE ADHD COALITION

Dear Elementary School Personnel,

Many children with ADHD get diagnosed early in their lives because you recognize children in your school or classroom who are hyperactive and impulsive and help them to get diagnosed.

But there are many boys and girls with Inattentive ADHD that are not recognized---the children staring out the window or looking at the ceiling, who are startled when you call on them because they weren't paying attention. Because these children are usually quiet, shy and not disruptive, they are easily overlooked. They could be bright but not performing up to their potential, and you may, wrongly, believe they are lazy or not trying hard enough.

It is critical that elementary school personnel, who spend the most time with children in structured settings, recognize these children. Viewing this five minute video is worth more than 10,000 words of explanation. Two children were 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. Guess which one has Inattentive ADHD. www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IO6zqIm88s

It is believed that thirty percent of all children with ADHD have the inattentive presentation and frequently they never find out. Delayed diagnosis often compounds their problems with depression and anxiety because they never learned that their brains are wired differently.

If you recognize any child as possibly having Inattentive ADHD, please describe the behaviors you observe that makes you concerned to the child's parents. There is no need to mention Inattentive ADHD, but suggest the parents discuss their child's behaviors with a family physician.

On the next page is a description of Inattentive ADHD from *the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition*. Please print out and store this information in a place where you and your staff 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.**