

GENERAL ARTICLE**EARLY BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER: A PRACTICAL GUIDE*****Vijaya Raman**

Abstract: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is one of the most common neurobehavioral disorders seen in childhood. It is important to keep a high index of suspicion when parents complain of behavioral issues in young children. Many behavioral changes in early childhood do cease to be of concern when children grow up. There are some definite early indicators of behavioral issues that continue to be problematic and affect the development and later functioning in all areas. This article focuses on early identification of problem behaviors that may lead to negative short and long-term effects on an individual's personal and professional life.

Keywords: Early identification, Behavior, Children.

Points to Remember

- *ADHD is a common neurobehavioral disorder which is often undiagnosed till significant impairment is observed.*
- *Repeated parental concerns regarding behavior of the child during routine OPD visits should warrant referral rather than reassurance.*
- *There are early behaviors that can aid in early identification and intervention.*
- *Early intervention prevents negative impact on the child's development, self-esteem and overall functioning and outcome.*

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