

RISKS OF UNDERTREATING

ADHD symptoms put your kid at a serious disadvantage

ADHD left unchecked can have consequences **throughout your child's life.**



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■ ADHD AND DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

Developmental issues that go hand-in-hand with ADHD may be a source of significant worry.

A developmental delay is more than being “a little behind.” It represents a substantial delay in many areas.

Cognition

Includes the ability to think, learn, and solve problems. Issues often include difficulty with:

- Cognitive inhibition (resisting distraction)
- Cognitive flexibility (switching between tasks)
- Working memory (ability to use new and learned information in the middle of a task)



Learning and Language Skills

Includes understanding what is said (receptive language) and using words to express thoughts or emotions (expressive language).

Kids with ADHD:

- Often start talking later than their peers
- Have attention issues that may make it hard to slow down their thoughts, organize their speech, and not interrupt others
- May have involuntary vocal tics that make speech difficult



Social and Emotional Skills

Lack of emotional regulation is frequently seen and defined by reduced tolerance for frustration, irritability, aggression, and marked mood swings:

- Easily frustrated by minor things/struggles to calm down when angry
- Poor emotional regulation may lead to struggles in social settings (eg, making friends, reading social cues, and fitting in with peers)

Fine and Gross Motor Skills

Fine motor skills are related to smaller muscle groups (eg, picking up objects, drawing, and writing). **Gross motor skills** are related to larger muscle groups (eg, running, jumping, and climbing).

Kids with ADHD may exhibit:

- Less developed fine motor skills, leading to problems with handwriting
- Less developed gross motor control (climbing too high, running too fast); this, along with the behavioral impulsiveness, leads to greater risk for accident or injury



The long-term developmental outcome for children with ADHD varies—and often depends on what help or interventions they receive. As always, you should talk with your child’s doctor to decide on the best support and treatment for your child.

You can also find links to some helpful resources here →

■ ADHD DANGERS AND RISKS

Do you know the dangers and risks associated with ADHD?



In teens

ADHD is a chronic condition with functional repercussions that increase in severity if left untreated as a child grows into adulthood.

The developmental issues listed above can lead to the following risks in adulthood:



Financial issues:

Employment and economic status are generally lower in adults who had ADHD as children; this may be due to impulsivity in financial management and difficulties adjusting to a workplace environment.



Motor vehicle accidents:

Individuals who had ADHD as children are more likely to be in 2 or more car accidents and have a suspended driver's license as adults.



Substance use disorder:

Alcohol and drug use both occur at higher rates in adolescents and adults with ADHD.



Legal issues:

One longitudinal study of a population with childhood ADHD found that nearly half had been arrested or served some time in jail.



The consequences of not treating your child's ADHD can be significant. This is why, according to clinical guidelines, multimodal treatment intervention is recommended as soon as a diagnosis of ADHD is made.



ADHD: Too Important to Ignore

Supernus Pharmaceuticals



ADHD: Too Important to Ignore

Watch Dr. Mattingly walk you through the patient journey.

06:00

[View Transcript +](#)

UP NEXT

[Learn about ADHD Treatments](#) →

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