



EVERY DAY WITH ADHD

Celebrate Abiding
disabilities

The Causes of ADHD

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It is generally agreed by the medical and scientific community that ADHD is biological in nature. Many believe that it results from a chemical imbalance in the brain.

Events in the past have provided insight into what may be happening in the brains of children with ADHD:

In 1937, a Rhode Island paediatrician reported that administering stimulants to hyperactivity/inattentive children had the unexpected effect of calming them down.

Today, stimulants (such as Ritalin) have become widely used in the treatment of ADHD children. It is suspected that stimulants works through the release of powerful chemical messengers in the brain called **neurotransmitters**. Brain cells, or neurons, do not actually connect to each other - there is a gap between them. Neurotransmitters are passed between neurons and this is how neurons communicate with each other. Many researchers have suspected that ADHD may result from a problem associated with this communication between neurons.

There is believed to be a strong hereditary link with ADHD. Usually one or other parent or close relative displays the same characteristics. In my experience if it is not one of the parents it is often an uncle.

A brain injury can leave the victim with similar symptoms to ADHD.

There is NO evidence that bad parenting causes ADHD.

The Dopamine Transporter Gene has been discovered as the possible genetic link of ADHD.

Brain imaging has shown that the activity levels of the brain of a person with ADHD are significantly different to the level of activity in the brain of a person without ADHD.

Brain scans have shown that there is diminished activity and blood flow in the frontal lobes of the brain thereby establishing a neurological basis for the disorder.

There are many books in the library that can explain these findings in more detail. The purpose of this book is to give you a general knowledge of these issues as a basis for greater understanding and acceptance of your ADHD child.

ADHD can also be caused through acquired brain injury.

Is There a Cure?

In short – No. But with proper help and training children's behaviour can become more appropriate as they learn strategies to enable them to cope with their condition. We can expect to see certain symptoms wane as the child matures or present more appropriately.