

**Education World highlights strategies for teachers to help their students with ADHD be successful in school, from routines that provide structure to showing students how to keep daily assignment journals. Included: 20 tips for teachers from the American Academy of Pediatrics and CHADD.**

All kids in school fidget in their seats and look out the windows from time to time. Sometimes elementary students get out of their seats and walk around for a few minutes, or sometimes they have trouble getting their work finished. Those are normal behaviors. Most of us did those things in school when we were children. Generally, children need only a gentle nudge to get back to work. But with children who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), teachers need to understand how that disability interferes with their ability to learn and stay on task.

## **What conditions are related to ADHD?**

Kids with ADHD often have other conditions as well. Doctors refer to this as comorbidity. Some conditions look a lot like ADHD because they have some of the same symptoms. It's important that your child's issues are properly identified so you can start an appropriate treatment program. Here are issues that often coexist with ADHD:

- **Learning disabilities.** Some learning disabilities make it hard for children to stay organized. Children with certain forms of [dyslexia](#) have trouble processing and responding to directions (written or spoken).
- **Social (pragmatic) communication disorder.** This condition makes it hard for a child to converse in socially appropriate ways. Kids with [social communication disorder](#) may have trouble understanding body language, puns, sarcasm and statements that don't mean exactly what they say.
- **[Auditory processing disorder](#).** This can make it hard for kids to understand and follow spoken directions. There's a "disconnect" somewhere between the ear and brain, making a child appear inattentive or unable to follow directions. [Auditory processing disorder](#) can coexist with ADHD. But sometimes one gets misdiagnosed for the other.
- **Motor and oral (vocal) tic disorders.** Although the most commonly known tic disorder is Tourette syndrome, there are others as well. Tic disorders can cause body movements and vocal sounds that kids can't control.
- **Behavior disorders.** Oppositional defiant disorder is common in children with the combined type of ADHD. So is conduct disorder.
- **Emotional regulation issues.** More than just temporary emotional difficulties, mental health conditions such as anxiety disorders, depressive disorders and obsessive-compulsive and related disorders can cause symptoms beyond a child's control.[11] Some of those symptoms are also seen with ADHD, such as emotional outbursts, high energy and the need to have things be "just so."

ADHD and many of the issues described above share a common thread: [executive functioning issues](#). Executive functioning skills allow us to plan, organize, remember things, prioritize, pay attention and get started on tasks. A child with ADHD or another disorder may lack skill in one or more executive functions.

