

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



ADDvanced Solutions
Supporting you to find the answers

Neurodevelopmental Conditions / Disorders

Neurodevelopmental disorders are disabilities in the functioning of the brain that affect a child's behaviour, memory or ability to learn. *

The difficulties experienced by children, young people and adults with neurodevelopmental conditions are wide-ranging. They are a result of the central nervous system not working as it should, and can include physical aspects (e.g. cerebral palsy) as well as problems with speech and language, organisation, sociability and other areas. They can become apparent early on in a child's development, often before starting school.

It is quite likely that any individual diagnosed with a neurodevelopmental condition will have characteristics of a number of conditions, as there are a lot of overlaps (or co-morbidities) among them. For example, individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) often have difficulties with co-ordination. Many children with ADHD also have a specific learning difficulty.

Commonly occurring neurodevelopmental conditions are:

- Autism and autism spectrum disorders such as Asperger's syndrome (now known as HFA - High Functioning Autism),
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),
- Genetic disorders such as Fragile X syndrome, Williams syndrome, Rhetts syndrome, Downs syndrome,
- Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD),
- Anxiety, global developmental delay,
- Specific learning difficulties: dyslexia, dyspraxia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia,
- Tourette syndrome, tic disorders,
- Communication, speech and language disorders,
- Traumatic brain injury (including congenital injuries such as those that cause cerebral palsy),
- Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD)

We hope these resources will help you in identifying and understanding the various neurodevelopmental conditions, and in giving you strategies to help you to live with or work with a child or children affected by a neurodevelopmental condition.

**Draft Baseline Report on Neurodevelopmental Disorders in the Framework of the European Environment and Health Strategy, 2003.*

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