INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



Neurodevelopmental Conditions

A neurodevelopmental condition (NDC) is defined as:

A difficulty with processing information that can affect an individual's ability to learn, remember, and respond. A neurodevelopmental condition can affect learning, movement and coordination, speech and behaviour.

Some common examples are:

- Autism
- ADHD
- Communication Disorders
- Epilepsy
- Foetal alcohol syndrome (FASD)
- Sensory Processing Difficulties
- Specific Learning Disorders
- Motor Disorders
- Fragile X (and other genetic conditions)

Note: There is often more than just one area impacted in an individual child or young person; we can better support families if we consider all cooccurring conditions

For example, if we just consider the presenting ADHD characteristics we can miss opportunities to support any sensory needs/ overlaps with autism, dyspraxia, etc.

There are many more!

The most recent edition of the diagnostic manual – DSM-5 (2013) includes a new category of Neurodevelopmental Disorders reflecting the increase of knowledge about and research into this group of difficulties. It also reinforced the growing view that ADHD is a developmental difficulty rather than simply behavioural (as once thought).

There is an increasing move towards considering and assessing children and young peoples' presenting difficulties via 'neurodevelopmental pathways' as a result of this developing understanding.

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