

Is Attention Deficit Disorder *REALLY* the Right Diagnosis?

By Melanie West
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As a parent, you've asked yourself: "Does my child have Attention Deficit?" Maybe you've had testing done by your child's school or an outside professional. Perhaps you've reviewed the criteria for Attention Deficit Disorder, and yes, that certainly does explain your child.

However, it just doesn't all add up.

Questions remain:

"Why can my child pay endless attention to some tasks?"

"Why does he remember things that are important to him?"

"How can my child be so bright and creative yet school-world is really tough?"

Chances are Attention Deficit is "one way" to understand the problem. However, the ADD paradigm can often be too limiting. More contemporary research leads us toward evaluating the extent to which your child is Right-Brained dominant. Understanding the nature of the right hemisphere of the brain can provide a much broader understanding of your child's particular learning obstacles providing you with learning strategies the *really* work.

A Right-Brained dominant child will:

Find it hard to listen to instructions

Often say "I don't know", "I forgot", or "never mind"

Look around to see what other classmates are doing

Often know an answer but then suddenly can't remember

Space out; Daydream

Learn from watching movies

Look at the pictures in a book before reading

Make careless error

Prefer hands-on activities

Demonstrate creative strengths

Skip over directions and/or misunderstand directions

If you question whether your child has Attention Deficit Disorder, I encourage you to explore more recent research on how the brain processes and learns information. Particular learning patterns often trigger difficulties with Attention. Exploring learning tools used by Right-Brained dominant thinkers can be a very effective way of improving your child's overall Attention.

About the Author

Melanie West is America's leading authority on “Right Brain Learning” and the founder of The Right Side of Learning program. As an Educational Psychologist and expert in her field of endeavor, Melanie is affectionately referred to as the “Child Whisperer” as she has helped thousands of children and families get back on the educational track. Her revolutionary approach uses a visual, kinesthetic, and auditory approach to mastering the art of learning. Melanie can be contacted through her website at www.therightsideoflearning.com, by e-mail at melanie.west@therightsideoflearning.com or by phone at 310.947.2662.