



Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Language

What is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)?

- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is a condition impacting one's ability to pay attention, control impulsive and/or hyperactive behaviors (*American Speech-Language and Hearing Association, n.d.*)
- As described by the *American Speech-Language and Hearing Association*, children with ADHD may struggle to:
 - Stay in their seat
 - Control behaviors
 - Concentrate
 - Carry out executive functioning skills (organization, time management, emotional regulation, and memory)
 - Engage in appropriate social behaviors¹
- If you suspect your child has ADHD, talk to your pediatrician to learn more information about the evaluation and diagnosis process.
- "A student with ADHD knows what to do, but has difficulty doing it" (OT4ADHD, 2025).

A few examples of how ADHD can impact language:

- Attending to new information
- Organizing and sequencing ideas
- Following directions
- Impulsive responses

What is the Role of the Speech-Language Therapist?

- A speech-language therapist cannot diagnose ADHD. However, if your child presents with coexisting speech or language difficulties, a speech-language therapist can support those needs. According to the *American Speech-Language and Hearing Association*, a speech-language therapist can help a child with ADHD by:
 - Providing social skills support
 - Supporting executive functioning skills

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). *Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)*. [Practice portal]. Retrieved August 2025 from <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/adhd/>

The Executive Function Disconnect: What everyone gets wrong about ADHD. (2025, July 31).

OT4ADHD. https://ot4adhd.com/2025/07/26/the-executive-function-disconnect-what-ever_yone-gets-wrong-about-adhd/

- Planning for assignments and exams
 - Organizing homework and exam dates
- Providing Emotional Regulation Strategies
- Advocating for their needs
 - A speech-language therapist may also advocate for environmental modifications for your child

Intervention and Instruction in the classroom

- Although the Speech-Language Therapist does not screen, evaluate or diagnose ADHD, they can assist teachers and students who may be impacted by ADHD.
- At AIM Academy, the Speech-Language Department works closely alongside the Occupational Therapy Department, who apply and share their expertise on executive functioning, and teachers in a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach.
- Informing teachers about strategies to manage social skills or executive functioning skills developed in individual sessions can encourage a cross-contextual use of learned strategies and environmental modifications to maximize classroom performance.
- This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Visual Aids to support classroom behavior and learning
 - Use of planners and organizers
 - Providing or facilitating use of *Occupational Therapist-Approved* fidgets
 - Seating arrangements in classrooms
- Children with ADHD benefit from a multidisciplinary support team, who can advocate for them, as well as teach self-advocacy skills.

If you're interested in Speech-Language services at AIM for your child, please contact supportservices@aimpa.org