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BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS IN CHILD

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РОЗЛАДИ ПОВЕДІНКИ У ДИТИНИ

All young children can be naughty, defiant and impulsive from time to time, which is perfectly normal. However, some children have extremely difficult and challenging behaviours that are outside the norm for their age.

Young people can have mental, emotional, and behavioral problems that are real, painful, and costly. These problems, often called "disorders," are sources of stress for children and their families, schools, and communities. The number of young people and their families who are affected by mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders is significant. It is estimated that as many as one in five children and adolescents may have a mental health disorder that can be identified and require treatment [4].

The behavioral disorders in children, including mood and anxiety disorders [5]. The most common disruptive behaviour disorders include *oppositional defiant disorder* (ODD), *conduct disorder* (CD) and *attention deficit hyperactivity disorder* (ADHD). These three behavioural disorders share some common symptoms, so diagnosis can be difficult and time consuming. A child or adolescent may have two disorders at the same time. Other exacerbating factors can include emotional problems, mood disorders, family difficulties and substance abuse [3].

Around one in ten children under the age of 12 years are thought to have *oppositional defiant disorder* (ODD), with boys outnumbering girls by two to one. Some of the typical behaviours of a child with ODD include: easily angered, annoyed or irritated, frequent temper tantrums, argues frequently with adults, particularly the most familiar adults in their lives, such as parents, refuses to obey rules, seems to

deliberately try to annoy or aggravate others, low self-esteem, low frustration threshold, seeks to blame others for any misfortunes or misdeeds [6; 11].

Children with *conduct disorder* (CD) are often judged as ‘bad kids’ because of their delinquent behaviour and refusal to accept rules [9]. Around five per cent of 10 year olds are thought to have CD, with boys outnumbering girls by four to one. Around one-third of children with CD also have *attention deficit hyperactivity disorder* (ADHD).

The child with a Conduct Disorder does not respect authority, has little regard for the basic rights of others and breaks major societal rules; he or she demonstrates aggressive conduct that threatens physical harm or property damage, deceitfulness, theft, truancy or running away from home. The child with a Conduct Disorder is often vengeful, irascible, and has a chip on his shoulder. The cause of Conduct Disorder is believed to be a combination of genetic vulnerability and environmental factors. Treatment plans might include behavior therapy with the child and parents and pharmacotherapy [7; 12; 8].

Some of the typical behaviours of a child with CD may include: frequent refusal to obey parents or other authority figures, repeated truancy, tendency to use drugs, including cigarettes and alcohol, at a very early age, lack of empathy for others, being aggressive to animals and other people or showing sadistic behaviours including bullying and physical or sexual abuse, keenness to start physical fights, using weapons in physical fights, frequent lying, criminal behaviour such as stealing, deliberately lighting fires, breaking into houses and vandalism, a tendency to run away from home, suicidal tendencies – although these are more rare [3; 8].

Researchers at the University of Leicester, a UK institution, carried out the study analyzing the relationship between smoking during pregnancy and the juvenile development of a conduct disorder (CD).

A somewhat simple behavioral problem, CD includes children that become highly aggressive, antisocial, and/or defiant. More specifically, two types of the disorder are presently defined as follows: *Early onset CD* – When a child exhibits symptoms of the disorder before reaching the age of 10. It is frequently connected to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). *Adolescent-onset CD* – The more common type of CD, this is attributed when the child exhibits CD symptoms after the age of 10. Adolescent-onset CD typically ensues alongside ADHD [10; 12].

“A Closer Look at Conduct Disorder” – this documentary, created by Jessica Defiore, describes and demonstrates how Nelson Muntz from "The Simpsons" displays symptoms of conduct disorder. This was created for Dr. Caleb Lack's "Abnormal Psychology" course at the University of Central Oklahoma [1].

Around two to five per cent of children are thought to have attention deficit *hyperactivity disorder* (ADHD), with boys outnumbering girls by three to one. The characteristics of ADHD can include: *inattention* – difficulty concentrating, forgetting instructions, moving from one task to another without completing anything; *impulsivity* – talking over the top of others, having a ‘short fuse’, being accident-prone; *overactivity* – constant restlessness and fidgeting [3; 2].

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