

Beyond LD and ADHD

The Social and Emotional Impact on Kids



Jenny Dougherty, Ph.D.

Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor
Registered Play Therapist- Supervisor

Tracy McClung, Ph.D.

Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor
Registered Play Therapist

Introductions and Background

- New Leaf Clinic www.newleafclinic.com
- Counseling and Assessment services
- Awareness of emotional impact throughout development
- Particular attention to emotional needs
 - Developmental interview
 - Testing process
 - Recommendations
 - How we administer feedback

Overview

- Specific Diagnoses that Affect Learning
- Co-occurring Emotional Difficulties
- Identifying Concerns
- Interventions

ADHD

- Monitoring the effects of their behavior on others
- Inattentiveness in conversation “flickering”
- Observing their life “on the fringe”
- Perceived as “fun,” but often rely on others to draw them in
- Working Memory
- Processing Speed
- Anxiety

Dyslexia

- If not identified early, emotional and academic impact is pervasive
- Word retrieval affects social conversation
 - Speed of lexical access conversations
 - Correct word recall
- Assumptions about intellect- reading ability is obvious in ALL subjects
 - “Everyone knows how to spell THAT”

Oral Language Disorders

- Social language-pragmatics
- Receptive Language
- Expressive Language
- Difficulty understanding humor/jokes
- Word confusion with like sounding words
- Vocabulary
- Anxiety- very early due to timing of oral language development

Dysgraphia/Developmental Coordination Disorder

- Perceived as lazy, sloppy, or “slow”
- Can't always keep up with socially expected physical demands
- Limited autonomy- linked to low self-concept
- Younger peer group
- Develop apathy
- Remediation can take time, even if identified early

Co-occurring Emotional Difficulties

- Differences between diagnoses and functional consequences
 - General Anxiety
 - Social Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Poor Self Concept

Identifying Concerns

- How do I know if my child is depressed?
- How do I know if my child is anxious?
- How can I identify my child's self concept in a variety of areas?
 - Behavior
 - Academic Abilities
 - Popularity
- Is my child engaging in self-soothing behaviors that are compounding the issues?

Interventions

- Play Therapy
- Group Counseling
 - Group Play Therapy
- Executive Functioning Groups
- Neuro/biofeedback
- Medication

Thank you!

www.newleafclinic.com

drd@newleafclinic.com

drm@newleafclinic.com