

Strategies for Managing Hyperactivity/Impulsivity in Children with ADHD

Kimberly Burkhart, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry



Kimberly Burkhart, PhD has no conflicts of interest or disclosures.

Learning Objectives



- To increase understanding related to the function of behaviors
- Learn strategies to manage hyperactivity/impulsivity in the home setting
- Learn coping strategies that can be prompted and reinforced with your child
- Learn strategies that can help minimize the impact of hyperactivity/impulsivity related to academic functioning

Hyperactivity/Impulsivity



- Differential diagnosis and comorbidity
 - Anxiety
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Adjustment
 - Trauma
 - Language or Communication Disorders
 - Bipolar Disorder
 - Sleep Problems
 - Prenatal Exposure

Common Examples

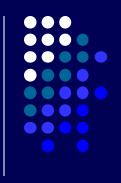
- Fidgets
- Restlessness
- Runs/climbs on furniture
- "On the go"
- Difficulty playing quietly
- Difficulty waiting his/her turn
- Interrupts/intrudes on others
- Talks excessively

The Function of Behaviors



Date/Time/ Duration	Setting	Antecedent	Behavior	Consequence (Child's Response)	Consequence (Others' Response)	Function of the Behavior

Three-Pronged Approach



- Parent training/behavioral therapy
- Classroom-based accommodations/modifications (The Special Education Process Diagram – CHADD)
- Medication management

Multimodal Treatment Study of Children with ADHD (MTA)



- Combined medication and behavioral treatment work better than each of these interventions individually
- Medication alone works significantly better than behavioral intervention alone or TAU

Parenting Strategies



- Labeled praise
- Special time
- Reinforcement plan
- Set clear expectations and develop structure
- Use of positive discipline strategies
- Social and emotional coaching

Reinforcement Plan/Incentive System/Token Economy



- Identifying behaviors to reward
- First-then approach
- Spontaneous rewards
- Choosing the reward system
- Rewards menu

Social and Emotional Coaching



- Building children's emotion vocabulary
- Prompting and coaching sharing and hands to self
- Modeling positive statements and interactions

Positive Discipline Strategies



- Effective limit setting
- Redirection
- Ignoring
- Time out
- Response cost procedure related to the token system
- Natural and logical consequences
- Removal of privileges

Child Strategies



- Self-monitoring/whole body listening
- Self-coaching
- Exercise
- Sleep
- Social problem solving
- Relaxation
- Mindfulness

Self-Monitoring

- External awareness
- Internal awareness
- Body scanning
- Time management
- Organization



Self-Coaching

- Narration
- Goal setting



Relaxation

- Diaphragmatic breathing
- Progressive muscle relaxation
- Visualization/guided imagery





 Think about what you are doing in the moment and your intention to pay attention.
 If thoughts intervene, say "not now" and let the thought pass.

School Strategies



- Use of visuals
- Use of assignment notebook/standardized approach to tracking and checking assignments
- Step-by-step directions
- Channeling of physical energy
- Create outlines for note-taking; opportunities to provide information orally
- Nonverbal signal
- Breaks
- Behavioral plan (token economy)

Channeling Strengths

- Energy
- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Enthusiasm

Example Intervention Programs



- Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)
- Incredible Years Parenting Program
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Problem Solving Challenges



- Unrealistic expectations
- Waiting too long to reinforce
- Rewarding almost behaviors
- Unlimited access to the reinforcer
- Unclear system
- Lack of follow through
- Using loss of rewards as a punishment
- Fighting every battle

Resources

- CHADD
- Pacer Center

