

Pointers For Parents

Hotline Gives Parents Expert Advice On ADHD

(NAPSA)—Although attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is the most commonly diagnosed psychiatric disorder among children, many families affected by ADHD face challenges in identifying and managing the disorder, and often don't know where to turn for guidance.

In fact, a recent Harris Interactive survey found that 84 percent of doctors believe a lack of information prevents many children with ADHD from getting appropriate treatment.

To help those affected by ADHD receive accurate and credible information on the disorder, Shire US Inc. is sponsoring for the third consecutive year, *ADHD Experts on Call*, a national toll-free telephone hotline (1-888-ASK-ADHD) that allows callers to seek one-on-one advice from leading ADHD experts, including doctors, school nurses, teachers, and advocates. In addition, callers may request a free booklet about ADHD with information on symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment options.

ADHD Experts on Call is available Monday, Sept. 10 through Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. EDT. Experts also can be reached by logging on to www.adhdexpertsoncall.com during the same days and hours.

The experts participating in *ADHD Experts on Call* will not dispense specific medical advice or recommend any particular course of action. Instead, they can serve as sources of information on topics such as:

- How teachers should approach parents if they suspect a student has ADHD
- How parents can approach teachers about their child's ADHD-related needs
- The importance of properly diagnosing and treating ADHD
- Dispelling the myth that children with ADHD are just lazy or misbehaving

"ADHD presents many challenges, and can be confusing and frustrating," said Sandy Jones, Ph.D., a special needs educator



and mother of seven who will be taking part in the hotline. "*ADHD Experts on Call* provides reliable guidance that helps parents tackle this complex disorder. With courage and assistance, families can learn to manage ADHD and help their children lead productive and satisfying lives."

While the hotline is available to anyone who has questions about ADHD, it may be especially beneficial for parents who may see signs of the disorder at the beginning of the school year—a time when referrals for diagnoses of ADHD are made.

About three percent to seven percent of school-age children are affected by ADHD. These kids often are impulsive, hyperactive, and/or easily distracted—difficulties serious enough to interfere with their ability to function normally in academic or social settings. In addition, up to 66 percent of children with ADHD will continue to show symptoms into adulthood.

ADHD usually responds well to a combination of treatments, including educational approaches, psychological and behavioral therapies, and medications. Although there is no cure for ADHD, physicians, parents, teachers, and nurses are finding ways to help people with the condition adapt to their academic, social, and work environments.

For expert advice about ADHD, mark your calendar and call 1-888-ASK-ADHD or log on to www.adhdexpertsoncall.com.