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# YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

*Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics*

## Does My Child Have ADHD?

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is one of the most common mental disorders affecting children. Children act impulsively, have trouble concentrating, or become hyperactive from time to time. However, children with ADHD find it nearly impossible to act any other way, and they don't grow out of those behaviors. Some symptoms include an inability to pay attention, excessive daydreaming at inappropriate times, forgetfulness, acting and speaking without thinking, and constant squirminess. ADHD causes problems for children socially, at home and at school, which can linger into adulthood if untreated. If ADHD is suspected, doctors will perform a medical and psychological exam on the child and ask parents and teachers for the child's history. Treatment includes medication and behavioral therapy.

**There are studies to suggest that ADHD is hereditary, your child might have a greater chance of developing ADHD if someone in the family has it. However, the exact cause of the disorder is unknown. If you would like further information about anything discussed in today's column, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are welcome.**

*P.S. ADHD is not caused by eating too much sugar, watching too much TV, or by bad parenting. It has been linked to smoking during pregnancy and low birth weight.*

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