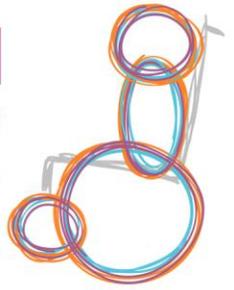


Do children with ADHD have differences in their spatial awareness of the left and right visual fields compared to children without ADHD?

childhood
disability
LINK



Glossary of terms

ADHD (attention deficit hyperactive disorder): A disorder characterized by poor concentration, distractibility, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness that are inappropriate for the child's age. Children and adults with ADHD are easily distracted by sights and sounds in their environment, cannot concentrate for long periods of time, are restless and impulsive, or have a tendency to daydream and be slow to complete tasks.

Spatial awareness: A spatially aware person is able to make sense of the physical space around them. For example parking a car requires the driver to be spatially aware of the space around the car so he/she doesn't hit any nearby objects.

Visual field: The entire area that the eye can see at any one time

Summary

Some previous studies show a link between children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and a tendency to be more spatially aware on the right side vs. the left side. In this study, two groups of boys were formed. The 2 groups then completed 2 tests on spatial awareness. The results showed an association between poor attention (a symptom of ADHD) and a relative bias to the right side in terms of visual awareness that may stem from a problem with poor attention to the left side.

What families should know

- Parents of children with ADHD, may if appropriate, speak to the child's teacher about a tendency for their child to be less visually attentive to the left field, which has implications in terms of where they are situated physically in the learning environment.
- The findings of this research suggests that it is perhaps advisable that the child be situated in either the center or left side of the learning environment where they have more of an opportunity to use the right visual field.

What practitioners should know

- Clinicians should be aware of the differing cognitive and behavioral profiles associated with ADHD.
- In particular, this study shows that children with ADHD may be less visually attentive to the left field, which has implications for learning.

Reference

[Manly, T., Cornish, K. M., Dobler, V., Grant, C., & Hollis, C. P. \(2005\). The relationship between poor attention and visuo-spatial bias within the normal child population. Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 46, 1337-44.](#)